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Cops shoot alleged robber

Two probes. EPS investigating alleged armed robbery; ASIRT handling shooting incident

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL
annalise.klingbeil@metronews.ca

A male suspect was clinging to life Tuesday night after being shot multiple times by two police officers during an alleged armed robbery in south Edmonton.

Edmonton Police Services (EPS) responded to a report of an armed robbery just before 2 p.m. Tuesday at a Canadian Western Bank at 21 Avenue and 99 Street within South Edmonton Common, said EPS Deputy Chief Brian Simpson.

The incident is being investigated by both the EPS

and Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT).

An adult male in his mid-20s was struck "numerous" times by two uniformed members of the EPS, said ASIRT executive director Clifton Purvis.

"We are dealing with one affected person and numerous civilian witnesses who were in the bank and outside the bank at the time the shots were fired," said Purvis, on scene late Tuesday afternoon.

EMS treated and transported the victim to an area hospital, in what was later described by police as "life-threatening condition."

"Thankfully none of our EPS members or customers or employees were injured in this event," Simpson said.

At the scene, patrol cars were still scattered throughout the area late Tuesday afternoon and police tape lined the scene, but few shoppers were witnesses to the event.

The bank is in a complex with several restaurants and retail stores including a Part Source, diet clinic and a toy store.

EPS will provide an update when further details come in on the alleged attempted robbery.

WITH FILES FROM DARREN KRAUSE



Several police cars and officers remained on the scene of a shooting at a bank in South Edmonton Common on Tuesday afternoon. ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

Quoted

"We are dealing with one affected person and numerous civilian witnesses who were in the bank and outside the bank at the time the shots were fired."

ASIRT executive director Clifton Purvis

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Police budget. Councillors reject \$6.5M request

City councillors rejected a request for \$6.5 million in additional funding for the Edmonton Police Service, drawing a line in the sand, saying the province needs to cough up more cash.

"We have given the police tremendous support over a number of years, but some years you have to say 'wait a minute and slow down,'" said Mayor Stephen Mandel.

Coun. Tony Caterina pushed for the funding and said it fundamentally represented a need for the city.

"I trust the chief and the commission to come forward with absolutely what the requirement is," he said.

Most councillors expressed support for police, but were concerned the province should be paying more, including the higher costs of transferring prisoners to the new Edmonton Remand Centre on the north edge of the city.

Mandel said he intends to raise these issues with the province, because they need to be involved.

"We have the best police chief in the country, everyone has said that and I think we have to work with the province to have them step up," he said.

Police Chief Rod Knecht said he understands council's frustration about funding from other levels of government, but his focus is the department.

"I am caught in the middle; at the end of the day I have to deliver a service despite where the funding comes from."

He said Edmonton would remain a safe city, despite the financial challenges.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO



City councillors finalized the 2012 budget in a 10-2 vote on Tuesday afternoon. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Tax hike of 3.33% gets council's OK

Debate. Final budget will cost average homeowner \$60 a year

RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

Edmonton city council passed a budget with a 3.33 per cent tax increase as marathon budget talks came to an end Tuesday night.

The average Edmonton home is valued at \$357,000 and that home would see a \$60 increase in their municipal taxes under the new budget.

The overall tax bill would be \$1,850 per year, or \$154

per month.

When council began deliberations, the increase was pegged at 5.5 per cent, or \$98 on the average home.

The budget was not universally endorsed, with councillors on both sides of the debate voting against it.

Coun. Amarjeet Sohi voted against the budget because he said it didn't improve important services, while raising user fees.

"This budget is falling in short in meeting some of the core service needs of some of the Edmontonians I represent," he said.

Sohi said decisions on increases to transit fares and recreation centres were really disappointing.

"This is a very punitive

budget for those who can least afford it," he said.

Coun. Kerry Diotte, who lost four separate motions to cut overtime, hosting, printing and consulting expenses, said council could have done much more.

"I believe this year that we missed an opportunity. I believe we missed an opportunity to bring in a zero increase," he said.

Mayor Stephen Mandel said this budget was a compromise for citizens who needed tax relief.

"I heard from many, many citizens that you have done a good job, but slow down with the tax increase," he said.

Mandel said the budget tried to do everything it

Budget round-up

The proposed increase will be finalized in May, before tax notices are sent out next June. Also included in the budget:

- \$47 average increase to utility fees
- Increases to recreation-centre user fees
- Increase in the Edmonton Transit cash fare to \$3.20

could.

"This budget met many of the obligations we had, but not everything."

1 NEWS

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Zoo-Minescence

Zoo turning into winter wonderland this month

There will be a few extra animals at the Edmonton Valley Zoo this week during Zoo-Minescence, as 11 ice sculptures have been created at the facility for a special holiday event.

From Dec. 14 to 23, patrons can come to the zoo in the evening to see the ice sculptures, which include likenesses of Lucy the elephant, arctic wolves and a tigress.

Hot chocolate, skating, craft workshops and a boutique will also be on offer, as well as all the animals who live at the zoo.

"A lot of the animals are just inside their warm en-

closures, and we do have a lot of our animals outside that are used to the cold weather and are North American," said Jasmine Hestad, special events coordinator for the zoo.

Members of the Sculptors' Association of Alberta (SAA) were on hand Tuesday to start creating the 11 sculptures that are placed throughout the zoo grounds.

A portion of the \$5 admission fee goes to the Zoo Development Society for the Nature's Wild Backyard.

LAURIE CALLSEN/METRO

Online

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A member of the Sculptors' Association of Alberta carves a giant panda Tuesday. LAURIE CALLSEN/METRO

U of A research may pave way for Alzheimer's treatment

Science. A drug intended for diabetes appears to restore memory in animal brain cells during laboratory testing

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL

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Researchers at the University of Alberta have made a key discovery in the fight against a disease that directly or indirectly impacts an estimated one in six Albertans.

"Alzheimer's disease is a complex condition," said Jack Jhamandas, a researcher with the faculty of medicine and dentistry at the U of A.

After more than two years of hard work, Jhamandas and his teammates, including a scientist visiting from Japan, have discovered that a drug originally intended for diabetes appears to restore memory in Alzheimer's brain cells.

When the drug, which never made it to market and is known as AC253, was given to animal brain

Alzheimer's 101

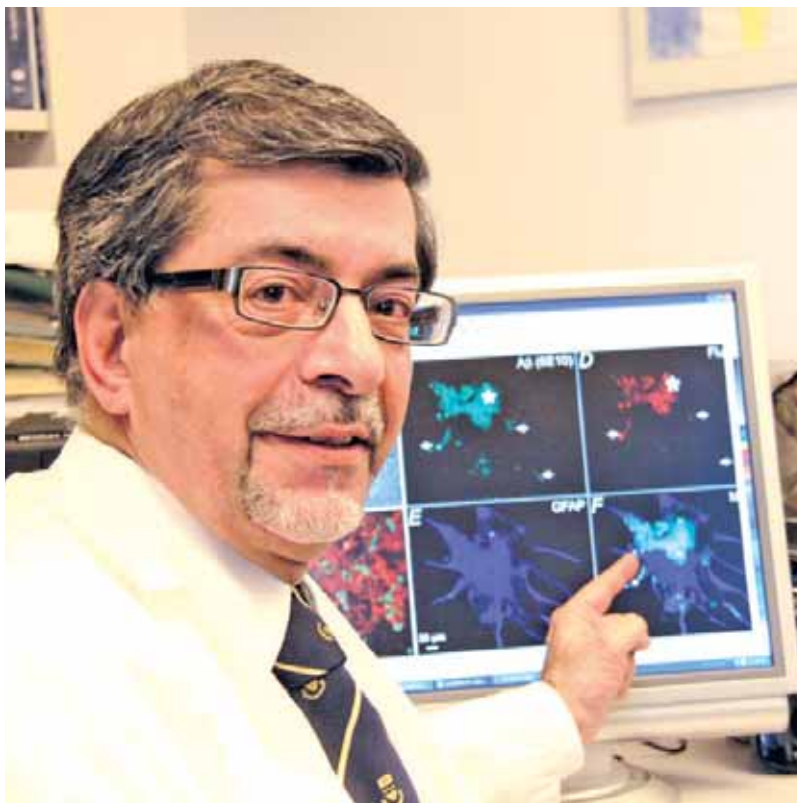
- Alzheimer's is a progressive brain disease that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills.
- An estimated 400,000 Canadians are suffering from Alzheimer's disease and an estimated one in six Albertans are directly or indirectly impacted by the condition.

cells with Alzheimer's and shock memory tests were done, memory was restored to levels similar to those in normal cells.

The research could pave the way for potential treatment of Alzheimer's disease, said Jhamandas.

"I don't think I or any other brain scientist or neurologist is under the illusion that one treatment or one approach is going to solve this rather complex riddle," said Jhamandas.

"But I'm optimistic that our approach is an important step in trying to identify a potential treatment in a condition where none really exists."



Jack Jhamandas, a researcher with the faculty of medicine and dentistry at the U of A, sits in his office at the Heritage Medical Research Centre on Tuesday. ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

Health care. Premier's sister denies knowledge of queue-jumping

The sister of Premier Alison Redford says she has never pulled strings to help someone get faster or better health-care treatment.

"I've not been involved in adjusting wait lists of any sort, nor have I been involved in expediting access for anyone," Lynn Redford testified Tuesday before an inquiry looking into alleged queue-jumping for well-connected Albertans.

Redford was testifying about her time as director of government relations at the Calgary health region before it and all other health regions were folded into the Alberta Health Services superboard in 2009.

She told inquiry lawyer Jason Wilkins she never received requests from politicians or anyone else to deliver fast-track care for prominent people.

Redford also said she didn't know of anyone else who has received or facilitated faster care.

Earlier Tuesday, former health minister Ron Liepert testified he had heard media reports of queue-jumping when he served in the job for almost two years starting in the spring of 2008. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Christmas conundrum: Real or fake tree?

Day 5:

On the fifth of Metro's 12 Days of Christmas, Metro Edmonton reporter Heather McIntyre and Metro Calgary reporter Lisa Wilton square off in a festive fight about trees: Real or fake?

Fake

Many questions arise during the Christmas season — Does a 7-11 gift card count as a present? Exactly how many calories were in that tin of Almond Roca I just ate? Did my boss notice me crawling out of the staff Christmas party on my hands and knees after drinking two bottles of red wine? Etc., etc.

But perhaps the most pressing question we are posed each year is: Real or fake?

Christmas trees, that is.

It's a subject that stirs up some intense emotional debate.

Fans of the real deal pine, spruce and fir trees will go on (and on and on) about tradition and texture and the inspiring, uplifting smells that fill a home with the joy and warmth of the holidays. Or something.

I say that's what Glade's Spruce It Up room spray is for.

Give me a perfectly symmetrical, already light-bulbed, tacky-as-Courtney-Stodden faux tannenbaum any year.

I've heard all the pro-real tree arguments before — "It's about the experience of picking out the perfect tree," "A real tree is beautiful and organic," "Artificial ones cause climate change. Why do you hate Christmas?"

But there's something to be said for efficiency.

Think about it; most fake trees come in no more than three or four pieces, the lights are usually attached and you're not dragging out your vacuum every five hours to clean up the piles of needles strewn about the living room.

And seriously, who doesn't like the smell of a little polyvinyl chloride in the morning?

I don't know about you, but bundling up in layers of winter wear to spend an hour traipsing around a parking lot in -20 C temperatures looking for that peerless woody perennial is not what I consider fun.

This might have something to do with the fact that, not unlike my Christmas shopping habits, I've always left getting a real Christmas tree to the last minute.

This means I'm choosing between roughly three trees — one of which would probably fill the foyer of the Fairmont Palliser, and another that makes Charlie Brown's sickly Christmas conifer look like a tree that could, well, fill the foyer of the Fairmont Palliser.

Sure, hot pink and midnight black aren't exactly Christmas colours and may not be to everyone's liking, but a crystal white tree can look elegant, and there are lovely, realistic green-coloured ones that can be found. But where's the fun in that? **LISA WILTON/METRO IN CALGARY**



Who needs green when you can have white? METRO

Real

There may be a few things about Christmas that aren't real, such as Santa Claus, flying reindeer, and Santa Mouse (Google it).

But there is one thing that should be real each and every season — your tree.

Sure, it means you have to hunt one down and figure out how to haul it home. And it may look more scraggly than its fake counterparts, or leave needles on the floor. But that's the beauty of it!

There is no better way to kick off the holidays with the family than heading out to pick out the perfect greenery for the living room. Just ask the Griswolds! (Ok, bad example.)

Honestly, though, it's a fun experience, and that way you can get the exact height, width and shape of tree you want to accommodate all of those ornaments the kids made you at school. (Including the sheep made out of black construction paper and cotton balls.)

And once you get the tree up and decorated, you will feel accomplished — and smell the benefits.

We all purchase pine-scented cleaner for the house, and the same scented freshener for the car — so why not embrace the actual natural smell?

It's worth the price — just buy a few less boxes of chocolates, or gin and tonics at the staff Christmas party, and voila! You will have the \$60 to \$80 you need to spruce up your home (pun intended).

Some may argue that fake trees last longer and are cheaper, but you also have to dismantle them, fit them back in the box (which is always impossible), and store them (and you probably have enough junk ... in boxes ... in the basement).

You can just chuck your real tree to the curb come January. Literally.

And it is greener to go green since your real tree is a renewable, recyclable resource, as opposed to hunks and shreds of coloured plastic and metals.

I am not alone in my beliefs.

According to Brock Friesen, owner of Dunvegan Gardens, business hasn't swayed over the years.

"We're increasing our orders slightly each year," he told me. Good.

Now, if you have set up a 20-year-old fake tree or one purchased at the Zellers clearance sale last week, I ask you one thing: Get a real one (next year, at least).

I am especially directing this at those of you who have fake trees that come with lights already installed, white trees (why?) or — even worse — pink trees (WHY?). C'mon, get real. **HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO IN EDMONTON**



'Smell the benefits' of a real tree. METRO

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City council. Monthly transit passes to cost more after motion defeated

A late move to stop a fare hike for monthly transit passes failed on Tuesday at Edmonton city council.

Coun. Amarjeet Sohi had suggested keeping the monthly pass at \$84.65 rather than the \$89 price that is proposed in the 2013 budget but failed to get much council support for it. Sohi also pushed this week for better service on crowded bus routes but lost that vote as well.

"There is a fare increase, and we won't be enhancing or improving any services," Sohi said after the vote.

Mayor Stephen Mandel

Movin' on up

- Keeping the monthly transit pass at the 2012 price would have cost the city \$1.1 million.
- The fare for a single ticket will rise to \$3.20 next year.

said transit gets heavy subsidies from the city and cutting the fare increase would have meant higher taxes for ratepayers.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Collision

Teen girl struck by van in St. Albert

A St. Albert girl is recovering after being hit by a car while crossing the street on Monday.

St. Albert RCMP said the 13-year-old girl was crossing Hogan Road at Delwood Road shortly before 8 a.m.

when she was hit by a silver 2006 Honda Odyssey van. The van then hit a car that had stopped for the girl.

She was taken to Stollery Hospital in Edmonton and treated for minor injuries.

The driver of the van was ticketed \$575 for failing to yield to a pedestrian.

METRO

Edmonton student's bright idea goes viral



U of A student Brandon Evans has created a workaround that allows Siri, iOS's voice-command system, to work with Philips Hue lights.

LAURIE CALLEN/METRO

SiriProxy Hue. Hack allows special lighting to be controlled by Apple voice command



LAURIE CALLEN
laurie.callen@metronews.ca

Brandon Evans said to his iPhone, "Siri, let there be light."

And there was light, even though Siri shouldn't normally have understood what Evans said.

But the second-year computer-engineering student at the University of Alberta is able to control the lights in his house with his voice by using a SiriProxy, a special network-enabled light pack and his iPhone.

"I just thought, 'Why not?' It probably came a little bit out of laziness. You're on the couch and have the phone with you — to get up and turn off the lights is a minor hassle.

Painstaking process

"At times, I found it difficult to get it set up. It's a fragile setup. You have to have a fair amount of familiarity with the system."

Brandon Evans, creator of SiriProxy Hue

It's nice to be able to tell your phone to do it for you," he said.

To demonstrate the hack, Evans created a video that has received nearly 90,000 hits from Apple and tech blogs.

But it's not easy making apps compatible with Siri, Apple's voice-command software, so Evans had to use a proxy as a workaround. He details the process further on his website. Basically, the proxy listens in on the voice commands he gives to Siri and substitutes the correct action from his custom list.

It took Evans about six hours to get the system up and running.

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10309 34th Ave.
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Stolen iPhone's app captures alleged thief

iFoiled. Owner is sent photo and location of alleged thief via email when they attempt to unlock the phone

It's a cool app that may catch a sticky-fingered iPhone thief in Britain.

A woman is wanted for questioning after she unwittingly took a picture of herself with a stolen iPhone.

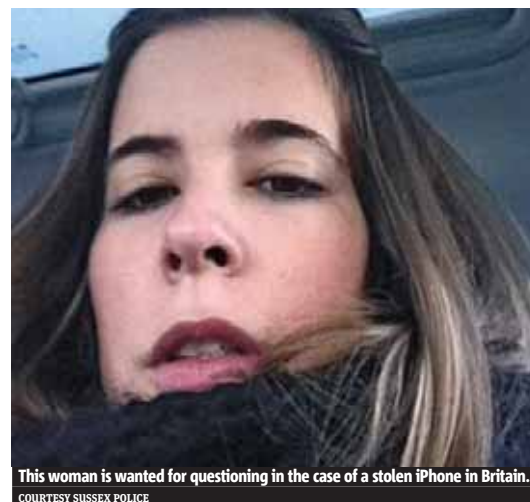
Police in Sussex have released a photo of the woman. They aren't calling her a culprit yet.

"We don't know that the woman is the person who stole the camera, but she obviously has had some connection with it in the meantime and I'd like to speak to her about it," Sussex officer Gavin Crute said in a news release.

The phone had been stolen from the Coalition nightclub in Brighton, East Sussex, this month.

The photo was taken from a different location.

The owner had an app installed that takes a picture of anyone trying to unlock the



This woman is wanted for questioning in the case of a stolen iPhone in Britain.
COURTESY SUSSEX POLICE

phone and then sends the information back to the owner via email.

The app, identified by some media outlets to be iGotYa, is not available from the official Apple store. The camera is activated when a wrong password is entered on the keypad.

Crute said that not only does the app photograph someone trying to unlock the phone, but

it maps their location.

"We know where and when the photo was taken and it appears to be in a vehicle with quite a large sunroof," Crute said.

Apple has a free app called Find my iPhone, which shows a stolen phone's approximate location. It does not, however, take a picture.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Defiant move. North Korea launches rocket in face of global condemnation

North Korea defied international warnings and fired a long-range rocket on Wednesday, the second launch under its new leader and a clear sign Pyongyang is pushing forward with its quest to develop the technology needed to deliver a nuclear warhead.

Pyongyang's state media quickly claimed that the country had successfully put a peaceful satellite into orbit with its long-range Unha-3 rocket — the North's stated goal of the launch. But South Korea and Japan said they couldn't immediately confirm that.

The launch was something of a surprise, as North Korea had indicated technical problems with the rocket and recently extended its launch window to Dec. 29.

A rocket expert said North Korea's rocket appeared to have improved on an April launch, which broke apart shortly after liftoff, but that it



South Korean soldiers watch a public TV reporting news about North Korea's rocket launch.
AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

might be a day before U.S. officials could determine whether a North Korean satellite was circling the Earth.

The United Nations, Washington, Seoul and others see the launch as a cover for a test of technology for missiles that could be used to strike the United States.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Photo hack

**B.C. man charged
for hacking into
pop star's
computer**

Vancouver police have charged Christopher David Long, 25, of Abbotsford, B.C., with hacking into pop star Carly Rae Jepsen's computer and stealing nude photos of her in March.

Long is charged with fraudulently obtaining telecommunications services, unauthorized use of a computer, mischief to obtain data, identity fraud and possession of stolen property.

Police say he surrendered on Friday at the Abbotsford Court House and has been released with conditions until his next court appearance on Jan. 4 in Abbotsford.

Jepsen, raised in Mission, B.C., is on tour in Europe and plans to give a free concert in her hometown on Dec. 17.

KATE WEBB/METRO IN VANCOUVER



Shock is etched on the faces of people outside a Portland, Ore.-area shopping mall Tuesday after a gunman wearing camouflage and body armour opened fire. BRUCE ELY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Shots after shots after shots ...'

Pre-Christmas terror.

Shoppers flee mall and Santa ducks for cover as gunman opens fire, killing two

A gunman wearing camouflage and body armour brought terror to a crowded Christmas shopping mall Tuesday.

Shoppers screamed and cried, grabbed their children and ran for the nearest doors as shot after shot rang out.

The mall's Santa was among those who ducked for cover.

Police said two people — and the gunman — died.

The gunman apparently killed himself, police said.

Kira Rowland said she

was shopping at Macy's in the Clackamas Town Center when the shots started.

"All of a sudden you hear two shots, which sounded like balloons popping," Rowland said.

"Everybody got on the ground. I grabbed the baby from the stroller and got on the ground."

Rowland said she heard people screaming and crying.

"I put the baby back in the stroller and ran like hell," Rowland said. "It was awful. It was shots after shots after shots like a massacre."

Holli Bautista, 28, said she was shopping in Macy's for a Christmas dress.

"I heard people running and screaming and saying 'Get out, there's somebody shooting,'" she said. Hundreds of shoppers and mall

Quoted

"I heard about 20 shots, and everyone hit the ground. That's when we all just ran."

Pam Moore, Macy's employee

employees started running. Bautista said police officers, firefighters and emergency workers were pouring in.

"There's tons of ambulances lined up," she said.

Macy's employees Pam Moore and Austin Patty said the shooter was short, with dark hair, dressed in camouflage.

He had body armour and a rifle and was wearing a white mask, they said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Royal hoax. Radio station may face charges for prank-turned-tragedy

Could the Australian radio station behind a royal hoax phone call face criminal charges for airing the conversation? The question was being discussed in legal circles Tuesday.

Two DJs from Sydney's 2DayFM who phoned an exclusive London hospital got confidential information about the pregnant Duchess of Cambridge, who was there suffering from severe morning sickness.

A nurse who answered the call died later — leading to wide criticism of DJs Mel

Greig and Michael Christian, who had pretended to be Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles.

The New South Wales state Surveillance Devices Act prohibits the broadcast of recorded private conversations without participants' permission, with violations punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$58,000.

Privacy law expert Barbara McDonald said the Commercial Radio Code of Practice has a similar ban.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not worth the risk?

Vancouver DJs ban prank calls

A Vancouver morning show has decided prank calls aren't worth the risk after the tragic fallout from an Aussie radio station's call to the London hospital where the Duchess of Cambridge was being treated for severe morning sickness.

Jack FM 96.9 morning show hosts Tara Jean Stevens and Kiah Tucker put an indefinite moratorium on prank calls after nurse Jacintha Saldanha was found dead, apparently by suicide, days after she was a victim of the prank.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO VANCOUVER

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Social media. Hunger Games tops Facebook pop-culture mentions

The Hunger Games, the teen survival movie based on the Suzanne Collins book of the same name, tops the list of the most talked about pop culture events by Canadians on Facebook in 2012, the social media network says.

"Most talked about" means mentioned in status updates or posted as a video or story link. The company does not disclose numbers, only rankings.

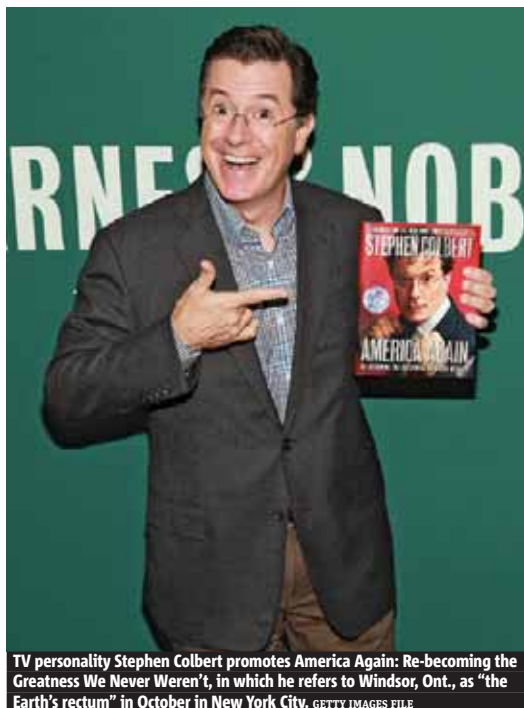
More than 18 million Canadians are active Facebook users.

TOPTAR NEWS SERVICE

2012's most talked about

- No. 1 Hunger Games film
- No. 2 The Avengers film
- No. 3 Television show The Walking Dead
- No. 4 The Feb. 11 death of Whitney Houston
- No. 5 Failed Republican U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney

Windsor BIA steps up campaign to woo Colbert



TV personality Stephen Colbert promotes America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't, in which he refers to Windsor, Ont., as "the Earth's rectum" in October in New York City. GETTY IMAGES FILE

'Earth's rectum' furor.

With new video, locals make last-ditch attempt at convincing comedian to host holiday parade



LUKE SIMCOE
luke.simcoe@metronews.ca

With less than four days to go until its inaugural Santa Claus parade, the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association is hoping a new video will convince Stephen Colbert to play host.

Filmed by Marshall Sfalcin and starring BIA chair Larry Horwitz, the video is the latest missive in a campaign that began last month when Colbert responded on his show to the brouhaha over his referencing of Windsor, Ont., as "the Earth's rectum" in his new book America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren't. (He told viewers he could have just as easily been talking about Winnipeg.)

Since then, Horwitz has

Quoted

"We've been given a clean bill of health."

Larry Horwitz, chair of the Downtown Windsor Business Improvement Association, who claims a "geoproctologist" has examined Windsor and found that the city isn't the Earth's rectum after all.

been trying to get the American comedian to cross the border and serve as the grand marshal of the new holiday parade.

Although filmed "entirely in Windsor," the video tells the tale of Horwitz's journey to New York to deliver a box full of Canadian goodies to Colbert. Along the way, he encounters rude baristas and has a run-in with security at Colbert's Comedy Central studios.

The downtown Santa Claus Parade is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Saturday. To date, Colbert has not responded to the BIA's request.

Online

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metronews.ca.



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For Canada Post, holiday rush brings onslaught of mail — and griping

It's supposed to be a time when festive packages are delivered with care and yuletide greeting cards are opened with glee.

But for some Canada Post customers — and the postal employees who have to deal with their complaints — it's not exactly the hap-happiest time of the year.

As the volume of letters and parcels being delivered by the Crown corporation reaches

massive levels over the holidays so, too, does the griping.

When Canada Post issued a release on its Facebook page Dec. 3, urging people to check international send-by dates for Christmas packages, there were dozens of not-so-kind responses from people bitterly upset about lost parcels, late deliveries and high postage costs.

Faster technology has made it easier to locate packages,

By the numbers

96%

Canada Post says it has an on-time delivery rate of 96 to 98 per cent, depending on the time of year and the way an item is delivered.

but has also raised people's expectations of how quickly their goods should arrive, said Can-

ada Post spokeswoman Anick Losier. "Our No. 1 call to the customer service is 'Where's my parcel?' — the day before it's due," she said.

"We're now in a world where we're ordering online and the next thing we do is go track our parcel to see where it's at."

"We call it the 'Generation-I-Want-It-Now.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Romney's back-to-work plan for tattoo-removal industry

Dr. William Kirby, right, looks on as a laser is used to remove Eric Hartsburg's Mitt Romney face tattoo in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Tuesday. Hartsburg, an Indiana-based wrestler and one-time fan of the GOP presidential candidate, will undergo about a dozen treatments to remove the campaign logo from his face. NICK UT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

Is the monkey over yet?

For 15 minutes, the Ikea Monkey was the most famous monkey in the world, the toast of everyone from Warren Kinsella to Anderson Cooper.

There he was last Sunday, larking around a Toronto Ikea parking lot in his cute little shearling coat and diaper, searching for the meatball special, distracting us for one brief monkeyshines moment, from the end of the world (Dec. 21) or the fiscal cliff (Jan. 1). If the Mayans don't get us, the U.S. Congress will.

I mean, come on. How could you resist the combination of a place where you buy rättviken sinks and ektorp sofa beds with a baby monkey named Darwin who brushes his teeth before he goes to bed and wears a Wizard of Oz-winged monkey costume for Halloween?

It was all fun until the authorities stepped in. They confiscated the coat and sent him to Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunderland, north of Toronto. Arguably the story gets better. Now, Darwin, stripped of his raiment, has to learn to be a real monkey all over again. He'll have to bond with the other monkeys, and he'll have to do it without his 'nuck-nuck (baby pacifier).

Darwin's owner is distraught. Darwin is, after all, seven months old, and needs his mommy, even if his mommy has a little trouble telling one primate species from another. Now Darwin has gone to live on the back of some other confused primate. Sanctuary staff are hoping that will be Sweet Pea, a baboon rescued from a roadside zoo.

As you might imagine, Sweet Pea has issues, but she loves to nurture things — kittens, fake fur, naugahyde, so cute little Darwin is just the thing.

The owner is a lawyer and, naturally, she's considering legal action to get her monkey back. When you're a hammer, everything looks like a nail, but she should be careful what she sues for.

Cute little baby rhesus monkeys grow into cute, 50-centimetre-tall adults that carry diseases and fling their feces. She might want to leave Darwin up in Sunderland, cavorting with the lemurs (cue King Julien doing the morning exercise routine: "I like to move it, move it!")

So that's it for Darwin, although he does leave a Twitter account and Facebook page behind, but he'll have to update his status from free-ramblin' to caged.

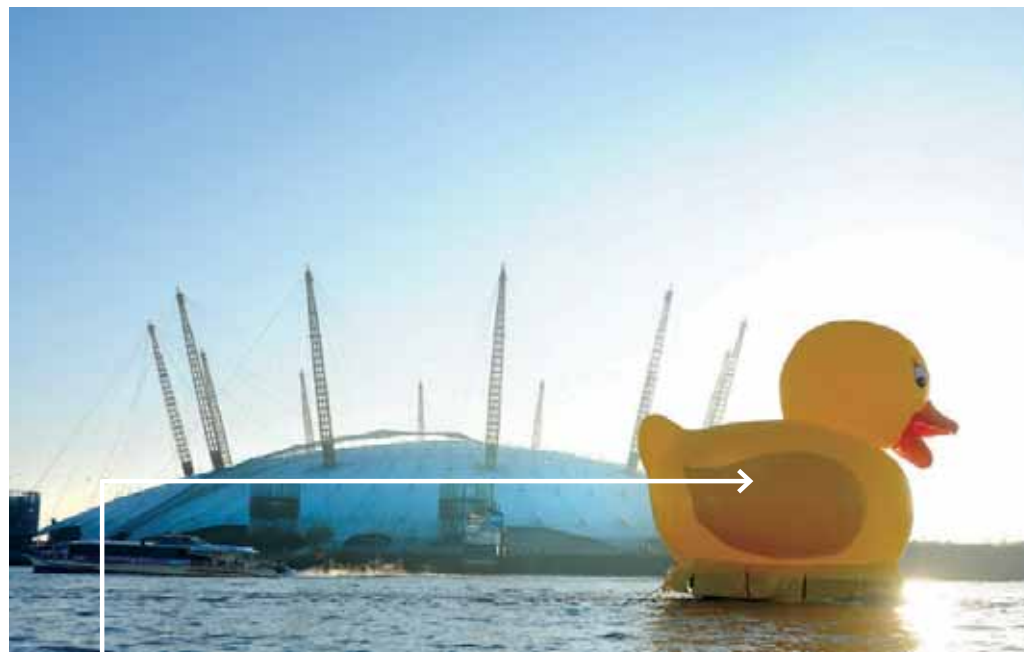
As for the rest of us, we'll find some other Internet meme to distract us. But it will be a long time before that poignant picture of that little guy wandering around the Ikea parking lot looking for the ball room fades from memory.

A long time. At least another 15 minutes.



Darwin will have to adjust to living like a monkey at Story Book Farm Primate Sanctuary in Sunderland, Ont. NIAHM SCALLAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rubber ducky, you're the big one



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Duck tales

Massive duck sails through London

Londoners were treated to an unusual spectacle Tuesday as a giant 15-metre rubber duck floated down

the River Thames.

The oversized bath toy got special treatment as the iconic Tower Bridge opened to allow it to sail through. The gigantic bird was launched to publicize a £250,000 (\$400,000) bursary to encourage Brits to have more fun. **METRO**



According to research commissioned by the FUNdation, British adults laugh 7.2 times a day on average, but psychologists say we should laugh 15 times a day for optimal health and happiness.

LEWIS WHYLD/PA WIRE/PRESS ASSOCIATION IMAGES

Duckies through history

Bath toys follow ocean currents

In 1992, a container with 29,000 plastic bath toys fell off a cargo ship in the Pacific Ocean and broke open. The rubber ducks eventually washed up on shores in Japan, Hawaii and North America.

By studying the ocean currents, oceanographer Curtis Ebbesmeyer correctly predicted their trip via the Northwest Passage to Great Britain. **METRO**

Quoted

"We now want people to send us their own entries of wacky things they'd like to do, and we'll provide funding for the best ones."

Barbara Windsor, actress and patron of Jackpotjoy.com's new Facebook FUNdation bursary



Twitter

@cookiesandkyla:

Was I seriously just woken up by coyotes outside my window? Where am I? #yeg #feelslike-home

@Steeveohh:

My next house is going to have in-floor heating which I'm extending out to the driveway and sidewalks! #yeg

@newmusicmichael:

If u poured millions and millions of coke slurpees on #yeg roads, you'd probably get about the same driving conditions and color #yegtraffic

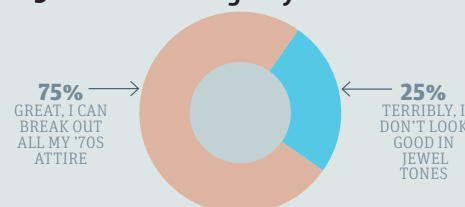
@Kyle_Itzy:

I have no issue with spiders until a giant, white one is CRAWLING UP MY ARM while I make my morning coffee. #yeg #CanadianSnowSpiders



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Emerald is Pantone's colour of the year for 2013. How does that grab you?



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Never too late for a series spinoff

Television. Some of the best shows of our generation could still stand the test of time if they were converted into a new series

MIKE
DOJC
scene@metronews.ca

Time has a way of stoking retro fever and nostalgia mining has a deep drill bit. It used to be conventional wisdom that you had a limited window to spinoff a TV show and breathe new life into departing characters before their cache cooled.

Frasier's 11 season run got started the same year Cheers stopped serving drinks and Buffy's vampire boy-toy Angel staked a claim on his own show while the slayer was



Boy Meets World could meet Girl Meets World in a revisiting of the once-popular series. HANDOUT

still only halfway through stabbing Sunnydale's undead population.

The 1990s coming-of-age comedy Boy Meets World has

been off the air for a dozen years, but it looks like this TV graveyard corpse is about to get reanimated with original stars Ben Savage and Danielle

Fishel on board.

Girl Meets World will revisit Cory and Topanga in the present day where they now have a 13-year-old daughter.

This development leaves us wondering; what other long-ago put-to-pasture series are ready to wake up and smell the future?

Steering Urkel back to fame

With Big Bang Theory garnering stratospheric ratings, it's clear there's more room for geeks in primetime. Fashion finally caught up with Steve Urkel's once gauche cardigans and plaid button downs that used to set him apart from the crowd.

The former TGIF mainstay is decidedly hipster in modern times, and adulthood has ironed out his voice's squeakiness so he doesn't even need his nerd-suppressing alter ego Stefan to make the ladies swoon.

The Pilot: Hired as the CEO of Virgin Galactic, Urkel struggles to keep one foot on the ground in Chicago where he



and Laura are raising a brood of wily little Urkelos and the other in orbit catering to the whims of wealthy space tourists. Good thing his father-in-law Carl Winslow is still around to steer him in the right direction.



Friend to an Acquaintance

Watching present day Monica, Chandler and company reunite at Central Perk and yuk it up would be interesting television for about five minutes. Rather than dwell on past relationships already fleshed out over the course of 200-plus episodes, Acquaintances breaks new ground by focusing on the still loosely intertwined lives of the core cast of Friends. The hitch

is they play caricatures of their slightly past-their-prime real-life selves a la Matt LeBlanc on Episodes.

The Pilot: Courtney Cox begs Jennifer Aniston to appear on Cougar Town, which in the show's universe has switched networks once again and is hanging on by a thread. Jen relents, but not before making Courtney alpha-betize her stack of Sexiest Woman Alive magazine appearances and polish her Golden Globe.

The XY Files

Flirty David Duchovny is much more palatable than spooky Duchovny. Besides, the Californication star is way more believable unzipping little black dresses and puffing post coitus cigs than chasing little grey men and attempting to see the truth behind smoking man's kabuki theatre.

The Pilot: A mysterious pandemic has winnowed the world's male population down to just 10 per

cent, leaving virile men in high demand. Working in conjunction with the Center for Disease Control who discovered the virus was man-made, the FBI responds by opening the XY Files, a new task force intent on apprehending the culprits. Groaning sci-fi fans will be placated by the presence of Gillian Anderson's shrewd disapproving gaze as well as fanboy jaw droppers Katee Sackoff and Summer Glau thrown in.



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Before a prequel was a silver screen prequel

Hollywood. Filling in the backstory isn't something unique to movies, but it has been fully adopted by today's film industry



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

It would be tempting to think the words sequel and prequel are the creation of Hollywood marketers looking for new ways to describe old ideas. But the notion of a prequel, a movie that provides the backstory of an existing story, like this weekend's *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, is not a Tinsel Town contrivance.

The first prequel appeared in the late 7th century BCE. The *Cypria*, an epic of ancient Greek literature, is the story of the origins of the Trojan War and serves as an introduction to the *Iliad* even though it was written after the Homer epic was already in print.

The word prequel first appeared in 1958 in an article



The Hobbit opens in theatres everywhere this weekend. HANDOUT

in *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* but didn't catch on until it was used to describe Butch and Sundance: The Early Days in 1979.

The *Star Wars* New Hope trilogy are the most famous movie prequels, but Hollywood has been looking back

to extend the lives of their franchises for decades.

The 1966 Clint Eastwood spaghetti western *The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly*, the final film of the *Man With No Name* trilogy, is a prequel to *A Fistful of Dollars* and *For A Few Dollars More*.

It wasn't billed as such, but by the time Eastwood assembles his iconic poncho outfit (which he wore in all three movies without replacement or cleaning) it's obvious we are at the beginning of his journey, not the end.

The title of another movie

was more obvious about its origins.

The *Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning* is the story of the roots of Leatherface, the human-skin-mask-wearing baddie of the original film. There's all the cannibalism and murder you

Quoted

The notion of a prequel, a movie that provides the backstory of an existing story, like this weekend's *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*, is not a Tinsel Town contrivance.

expect from a *Texas Chainsaw* movie, but the grisly birth scene kicks it up to another level.

Escape from the Planet of the Apes, the third of five films in the original Apes series, came after the Earth was destroyed by a nuclear blast in the second movie. To keep the franchise alive, a story was created that saw apes travelling back in time which sounds forced but *Variety* called it "an excellent film, almost as good as the original Planet of the Apes."

The *Godfather Part II* manages to be both a prequel and a sequel at the same time. Flipping between the past and present, it's a powerful story of one family's descent into corruption.

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Pamela Anderson in deep over taxes

Pamela Anderson is in hot water with the IRS. Two tax liens were recently filed against the former Baywatch star totaling more than \$370,000, according to TMZ.

The IRS claims Anderson owes just over \$250,000, with the rest coming from a filing by the state of California. Still, the total is something of an improvement for Anderson, who was added to California's list of the top 250 debtors in



Pamela Anderson

2010, when she reportedly owed more than \$493,000.

Twitter



@kirstiealley

Dear PA who rang the gate with a script at 3 AM...notice mailbox to the left of driveway...NOTICE the actress with a Glock in upstairs window



@NiallOfficial

Sittin at home! Bored t death!



@Mruff221

I got a text from Joss Whedon the other day. Sounds like he is writing some very interesting stuff for Banner and his alter ego The Hulk.



@AlbertBrooks

By not tweeting I have gained substantially more followers.



Harry Styles

One Direction isn't too keen on Swift's private jet

Taylor Swift's fledgling romance with Harry Styles appears to already be causing strife among his One Direction bandmates. So what's got them all worked up? Travel arrangements, it turns out. After the band's stay in New York, Styles reportedly headed back to England with Swift on her private jet while the rest of the band travelled separately, according to E! News. "The

rest of the band were a bit annoyed about the whole thing," a source says. "They took a Virgin commercial flight and there were tons of spare seats on the jet. They were a bit miffed that Harry chose to go with her instead of them. They had just finished a huge concert in New York and all of them were on a high. The fact that he left them to travel solo irritated them a bit."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



A look back: Celebrity engagements of 2012



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Despite the fact that every single person in Hollywood gets divorced, these true-believers decided to throw caution to the wind and become betrothed. We look at the big ones:

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

The deets: Pitt proposed to Jolie, his longtime girlfriend with whom he has six children, in April with a \$500,000, 16-carat rock. "It seems to mean more and more to our kids," he says about finally tying the knot, to *Us Weekly*.

Wedding date: Ha. Like they'd tell us.

Justin Theroux and Jennifer Aniston

The deets: The two actors, who met on the set of *Wanderlust*, got engaged in New York City on Aug. 10. Theroux proposed with an eight-carat ring, worth an estimated \$500,000.

Wedding date: Again, we'll never know until they sell their photos to the magazine of their choice.

Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus

The deets: They might be young (he's 22, she's 20) but that doesn't mean they won't

last forever (actually, yes, yes it does). The Hunger Games actor proposed to Cyrus in May, three years after they started dating, with a 3.5-carat diamond ring. **Wedding date:** Eh, you REAL-ly think this one is going to happen?

Hilaria Thomas and Alec Baldwin

The deets: The two love birds got engaged in April, less than a year after they first met.

Wedding date: It actually already happened (Baldwin moves fast). The two were wed in June in New York City.

Avril Lavigne and Chad Kroeger

The deets: The two got engaged in August, surprising a lot of fans (and gossip columnists) who didn't even know they were dating. "Things just clicked real quick," Kroeger, the lead singer of Nickelback, told a radio station about Lavigne.

Wedding date: I'm kind of getting the vibe they'll skip the wedding and just go straight to procreating Canadian royalty.

Evan Rachel Wood and Jamie Bell

The deets: The two got engaged in January. They met while starring in a Green Day music video; they broke up when she moved on with Marilyn Manson and reconnected when her engagement to the goth rocker ended.

Wedding date: Already happened! They were married on Halloween in California. "It was a small ceremony with close family and friends," said her rep in a statement.



Kristen Stewart

Stewart is cool with getting naked, OK?

Kristen Stewart is sick and tired of all the attention her nude scenes in *On the Road* are getting. "I do hate also when people go, 'Oh wow, great performance. So brave,'" she tells the Huffington Post. "Because I'm naked? That's annoying. But at the same time, if that's what they're focusing on, then *On the Road* probably isn't for them anyway." Stewart is a diehard fan of the Jack Kerouac novel on which the film is based, which meant she had no hesitation about doing the more revealing scenes. "This book celebrates being alive and it celebrates being human, and if you want to cover up and deny any aspect of that, you are denying the spirit of the book."



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It's coming to Canada, and it's staying here too. Cheers could be heard in households throughout the country when it was announced that The Amazing Race Canada would follow Canadians traipsing the true north strong and free while competing in challenges. Debuting next summer, producers promise the show will be a love letter to Canada, but haven't revealed which areas of the country will be featured. Here are five worthy location suggestions, along with challenge ideas too.

MAE BOWRING
life@metronews.ca

1



SUBARCTIC MIKE/Flickr

Canoeing the South Nahanni River

Breathtaking mountain ranges, falls twice the height of Niagara, hot springs and gorgeous flora and fauna can all be viewed along the Nahanni in the North West Territories. Contestants would be challenged with trying to stay afloat through rapids as they navigate the river's four canyons.

Mountain Biking in Whistler

Skiers and snowboarders flock to the snow-capped mountains of British Columbia in the winter months, but during the summer, it's all about biking. With courses that feature sharp turns, rugged terrain and stomach-in-your-throat drops, it's not for the faint of heart. The team who makes it to the bottom of the course first in one piece wins.



5 spots the Canadian Amazing Race should hit

Driving the Cabot Trail

Arguably the country's most scenic drive and popular among domestic and international tourists, the highway features stunning vistas and wildlife as it weaves throughout Eastern Canada. Contestants would have to work a shift at one of the bed and breakfasts along the route, catering to fellow tourists. The team that gets the highest marks for service wins the challenge.

3

Scavenger Hunt through Kensington Market

A multicultural and national historic site in Toronto, even the odd-est item on a shopping list can be found among the eclectic shops and market merchants. To prove the point, contestants would be given an obscure list of food and clothing items to buy and the first team to get all of them would win.



MARKYEG/Flickr

Survivor in the Thousand Islands

A picturesque destination for vacationers wanting to get away from it all, the thousand islands is known for its picture-frame worthy sunsets. Contestants would be tasked with navigating small sailboats along the Saint Lawrence River until they find an uninhabited island. The first group to start a small fire wins.



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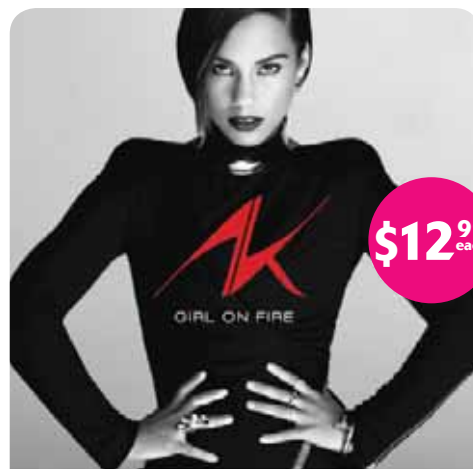
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New Fantasyland makes dreams come true

Disney. Fans of Florida's park have a new section to explore with the site's largest expansion in its history

Derrick Weitlich and his friend Leslie Martinez arrived at the Magic Kingdom at 5:40 a.m. last Thursday, wanting to be among the first to visit the park's New Fantasyland.

Getting up early was worth it, said these Melbourne, Fla., Disney fans, who estimated that they have visited the park some 180 times.

"I love Beauty and the

Beast," said Martinez, while standing in front of the new Gaston's Tavern restaurant. "And I'm very picky when it comes to details about Beauty and the Beast."

Martinez and Weitlich weren't disappointed. From the antlers lining the walls in the tavern to the animatronic Ariel in the Under the Sea-Journey of the Little Mermaid ride, they were impressed with the New Fantasyland.

It's the largest expansion project in the park's 41-year history. The new spaces are built on what was once the site of the 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea experience, and the expansion doubles the size of the original Fantasyland.

Tradition lives on

For Disney traditionalists, never fear. Many of the park's longstanding beloved attractions like Cinderella Castle, and rides based on *It's a Small World* and *The Many Adventures of Winnie the Pooh*, remain open.

The central Florida theme park near Orlando is blending classic Disney characters (like Dumbo, the flying elephant) and newer, popular hits (like *The Little Mermaid*) with the multimillion dollar expansion.

"It's really about immersing people in a number of stories, characters and music that they love," said Walt Disney Parks and Resorts Chairman Tom Staggs.

New Fantasyland sits just past Cinderella Castle, with two sections: Enchanted Forest, where visitors will find Belle from *Beauty and the Beast* and Ariel from *The Little Mermaid*, and Storybook Circus, which is inspired by the Disney film *Dumbo*. Among the highlights: A ride called *Under the Sea — Journey of the Little Mermaid*, which tells Ariel's story, and



Gaston's Tavern, part of the New Fantasyland, is inspired by *Beauty and the Beast*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Enchanted Tales With Belle, a walk-through experience that features a magical mirror and costumed characters. Staggs said that the expansion allows families to "be a little more relaxed" while in the park, calling

the spaces "more enjoyable."

Thursday's grand opening happened twice: Once for media and bloggers in front of Gaston's Tavern and then again on the steps of Cinderella Castle, with cheering park

visitors. Staggs was joined by actress Ginnifer Goodwin, singer Jordin Sparks and, of course, Mickey Mouse. Sparks sang a medley of songs from Disney movies.

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CONVENIENCE AND VARIETY

GIFT CARDS GIVE RECIPIENTS OPTIONS

Michael Bennett is an occasional gift card giver.

"I sometimes give them as thank you gifts or stocking stuffers," says the Guelph, Ont., man. "They're convenient and easy to give. The downside of them is they're easy to rely on them rather than discovering what someone likes and choosing a gift they would appreciate."

What is it about gift cards that we love so much? Is it the fact that we can buy them virtually anywhere? At a variety of price points in a variety of outlets?

"People generally know what type of store their friends or kids like to shop at," says Frances Ho, founder of Canadian site cardswap.ca. "However, they don't know specifically what sweater they prefer or the right pair of jeans. People are very particular about those things. It's just easier to give a card to a store they know

they're going to enjoy."

While Ho believes it's more socially acceptable to give gift cards, she does believe it makes a difference in how you present it as a gift.

"If you combine a gift card with a really nice written message in the card, or wrapping it in a big box, it's really the effort that counts. Then it still has a warmth to it," she says.

They are also a nice way to give something to a gift that's too pricey.

"That's another benefit — if they're saving up for a larger item and the person can't afford to give you the large item, but they can give you a gift card towards," Ho says.

Gift cards do have their drawbacks, of course. Some come with expiry dates for example.

"And a lot of people tend to spend

more money when they spend their gift cards because they treat it like it's free cash. And then they end up spending more than they actually budgeted for," Ho says.

However, you can make your gift card dollar stretch by watching for sales or deals — buy a gift card and pick up a gift for yourself for free, for example. Or re-gift a card that's not a fit for you or take it to a site such as cardswap.ca where you can trade your card in for points or cash.

"We see a variety of gift cards come in and whenever we post things on the site, they're gone within 24 hours because someone else wants that card," Ho says.

— Astrid Van Den Broek



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SECRET SANTA GIFT IDEAS

It's that time of year — you are buying presents for friends, family, and that one quiet guy at the office. Office gift exchanges often mean you are shopping for people you barely know. To help, the staff from Canada's largest bargain hunting site, RedFlagDeals.com, have put together some secret Santa tips:

BOSS: Buying presents for your boss can be awkward. Choose a meaningful gift instead of something fancy or expensive. Fun gifts like a framed photo from a work event or a batch of gourmet cookies to share are a good start.



NEWS CANADA PHOTO

NEW PERSON: This one is tougher. Keep an eye on what the new person likes to eat. If they come into the office every day with a large coffee, put together a nice mug, a coffee shop gift certificate and some chocolate-covered espresso beans for the ultimate gift.

INTERN: Usually, "intern" is a code word

for "underpaid." Skip the gag gifts and get your intern something useful like movie passes.

RECEPTIONIST: If there is one thing a receptionist has enough of, it's office supplies. Skip the stationery and treat them to a deluxe gift basket, a gift certificate to the local salon for a manicure/pedicure

combo, or a good book.

IT/HELP DESK: Treat the people who fix your computer well. Something like a gift certificate to their favourite restaurant will work. If you want to be a bit more creative, observe what they decorate their desk with and get them something that fits in. — *News Canada*

ROCK THE HALLS

iTunes Cards – One great gift for Entertainment, Apps, Books and more!



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YOUR SIMPLE GIFT SOLUTION

WALMART GIFT CARDS OFFER GREAT PRICES, CHOICES

Wondering what to give the mail carrier, the dog walker, your child's teacher, or the co-worker whose name you picked in the secret Santa draw? Or pretty much anyone on your holiday gift list? Thanks to Walmart, there's a simple solution.

"When you give a Walmart gift card, you're giving the gift of great prices and choices," says Felicia Fefer, Walmart Canada's manager of corporate affairs.

The beauty of giving a Walmart gift card is the person receiving it can choose to use it for whatever they want the most, from fashion and electronics to food and housewares.

There are more than 30 holiday gift card designs, ranging from contemporary (gold, white and purple snowflakes on a purple background) to traditional (holiday bells) and whimsical



(cartoon of Santa and friends on a sleigh).

The collection also features cards with specialty finishes, including lenticular cards (where you hold the card still and see one design, then tilt it to view a second design) and scratch 'n' sniff cards (gingerbread is an appropriate scent at this time of year).

There are even cards for pet lovers, with cute images of cats and dogs decked out in holiday accessories.



FLEXIBLE PRICING

Located at the cash registers and near the front of the more than 370 Walmart stores across Canada, the gift cards come with a pre-set amount of \$25, \$50 or \$100. Or you can choose the dollar amount — anywhere from \$5 to \$2,500 — which the cashier will load onto the card.



best part? There are no expiry dates.

The holiday-themed cards will be for sale right up until the stores close on Christmas Eve — ideal for last-minute

shoppers who still have no idea what to get some of the people on their gift list.

"Walmart gift cards are popular all year long, but especially during the holidays," Fefer says.

"They're the perfect present for those who are hard to shop for or who have everything."

— Jane Doucet

Shopping for the person who has everything?



Give the gift of choice with a Walmart gift card.

Balance inquiries: 1-888-537-5503. Card only valid for purchases at Walmart Canada (excludes licensees). Cannot be returned or redeemed for cash, unless required by law. Receipt required to replace lost or stolen cards. Card balance cannot be applied towards credit card balances. Returns of merchandise purchased with card will be credited to card only. See gift card for full terms and conditions.

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Walmart
Save money. Live better.

THE ONE THAT MATTERS FOR THE ONES THAT MATTER

REJUVENATE WITH AN ESCAPE AT EVELINECHARLES

One Christmas gift that will always be appreciated is the gift of time. Time for one's self, time for reflection, relaxation and restoration.

This year, give the special people on your list the opportunity to rejuvenate

with an EvelineCharles escape.

EvelineCharles' beauty professionals are dedicated to making each moment an unforgettable one for your deserving someone. Choose from a variety of salon and spa services or custom packages for head-to-toe pampering, and EvelineCharles' professionals will do the rest. With unparalleled service expertise and an unwavering commitment to its guests, the EvelineCharles team is devoted to the tranquility and comfort of all who walk through the doors.



To further enrich your EvelineCharles experience this holiday season, personalize your gift card purchase with limited

edition holiday kits or exclusive EvelineCharles products. There are a variety of ready-for-the-tree gift sets available, including nail polish kits, skin care sets, and the exclusive EvelineCharles Balm Trio. And when you purchase a gift card of \$135 or more you will receive one of three complimentary gifts: A signature scent body kit and candle, an exclusive EvelineCharles robe, or a holiday makeup kit.

The one that matters for the ones that matter. EvelineCharles.

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ENJOY A RELAXING SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

AT BONNIE DOON SHOPPING CENTRE

Actually enjoy holiday shopping this year and fall in love with shopping at Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre.

Shop the stores you want without the hustle and bustle of the bigger malls in town.

"Enjoy a relaxing holiday shopping experience at Bonnie Doon," says Angela Woronka, Marketing Director for Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre.

"Bonnie Doon is a great place to do your Christmas Shopping. Our family-friendly centre has some of your favourite stores, lots of holiday parking and the best Santa in town."

Shop at more than 100 stores to find something for everyone on your holiday list. For the kids, pick up their must-have item at Toys "R" Us Express.

If you are looking for something stylish for the fashion conscious on your list, find the latest threads at one of the many clothing shops, such as Suzy Shier, Le Chateau, Bluenotes, Penningtons, and Sears.

Really dazzle someone on your list with



something sparkly from one of the four jewelry stores.

If there are just too many great items to pick from, let them choose when you purchase them a Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre gift card. When you

buy a gift card for \$75 or more at Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre, get a free gift for someone on your list or keep it for yourself.

While supplies last, spread some holiday cheer with a free Holiday Porcelain Tea Gift Box Set with the \$75 gift card purchase.

Stop by Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre to pick up a gift card at 82 Ave. and 83 St. or visit bonniedoonthoppingcentre.com.

Keep up-to-date on the excitement by following Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre on Twitter or "Like" Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre on Facebook.

the one that matters
for *the ones* that matter.



EvelineCharles Gift Card
receive a free gift when you purchase a gift card of \$135

www.evelinecharles.com



PERFECT GIFTS ARE IN THE CARDS

SEARS CREATES SPECIAL EDITION GIFT CARDS

Sears Canada is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Sears Wish Book with lots of holiday gift ideas, a national network of festively-decorated stores, and 24/7 shopping at sears.ca.

"To celebrate the 60th year of its famous catalogue, Sears Canada has created a collection of special edition gift cards, one highlighting images of past Wish Book covers that is certain to stir memories from everyone's childhood," says Daniela Chiasson, director of gift cards at Sears Canada.

Other holiday designs on Sears gift cards range from snowflakes to reindeer, and the cards are available in a range of denominations from \$10 up to \$500 in stores (at cash counters), online at sears.ca and through the catalogue. There are no expiry dates or activation fees and they can easily be redeemed at any Sears store, online and through the catalogue.

They can also be applied towards home services and other in-store specialty services such as Sears Travel, Sears Optical and Sears Portrait Studios.

"It's the ideal gift for that 'hard to shop for' person," Chiasson says.

Making wishes come true is a theme with Sears, and one of the nicest gifts to put under the Christmas tree this year is a plush Cooper the Bear and a Sears Cooper the Bear Gift Card.

"The Cooper Bear is Sears' annual charity plush," Chiasson says. "Cooper is also featured on a limited edition gift card that celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Sears Wish Book."

What makes Cooper extra special is that \$2 from every purchase of the bear will be donated to the Sears

SHOP VIA THE IPAD APP

Sears 60th anniversary Wish Book is the first catalogue on its "shop-able" Sears iPad Catalogue app.

"It's fun, interactive and can make Christmas shopping easier than ever," says Daniela Chiasson, director of gift cards at Sears Canada.

The app features a smart pinch and zoom function as well as a simple, intuitive navigation and browsing experience. Your family can create wish lists, bookmark catalogue pages and share products via email, Twitter or Facebook.

Download the iPad Sears Catalogue app via the Apple iTunes App Store or sears.ca/app.

Canada Charitable Foundation, which supports programs that promote the healthy development of youth in Canada.

Here are some other great gift ideas from Sears for the holidays:

- At searsgiftcards.ca, upload your favourite family photo and print it on a gift card of any denomination for a personalized gift. Sears will also mail the card in a gift box if you wish.
- There are a wide variety of other gift cards available in-store such as iTunes, Petro-Canada, Chapters Indigo, or long distance calling cards.
- Sears has partnered with Lifeexperiences.ca to offer unique gifts such as a spa day, wine tasting or hand-gliding adventures.
- Reward employees or surprise clients with a Sears Incentive Gift Card in any denomination from \$5 to \$500 (volume rebates available). Businesses can call 1-866-297-5306 or visit searsincentives.ca.

Visit searsgiftcards.ca for more information.



Give a Sears gift card today



Pick up your Sears gift cards in-store, or order online by December 17, 2012 and we'll ship them to almost anywhere in Canada* - just in time for the holidays.



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CLICK sears.ca

COME IN

Sears

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IN GIFT CARDS
GET \$30*
IN COUPONS



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EMPIRETHEATRES.COM/GIFT

*Approximate retail value. Varies by location. Offer ends December 24.
While quantities last. See website for full coupon details.



WAVEBREAK MEDIA/THINKSTOCK

GIFT CARDS ARE GOING MOBILE

YOU CAN TAP AN APP ON YOUR PHONE AT SOME STORES

Forget carrying around that giant deck of gift cards in your wallet — many companies are taking their plastic cash mobile.

When it comes to giving and getting gift cards, technology is making it a lot easier to keep track of this electronic cash.

“Physical gift cards are a problem for many people, they put them on the shelf, forget to use them,” says Dr. Tom Keenan, adjunct professor in the department of computer science at the University of Calgary.

“Since more and more of our life is going online and ‘into the cloud,’ that’s probably a better place for our gift cards, too.”

Gone are the days where you would get a gift card and hold on to that piece of flimsy paper like it was cash.

Over the last few years, shoppers have seen majority of stores move over to the plastic, reusable swipe cards and now many places are moving their gift cards to mobile devices.

Starbucks is among the most popular when it comes to mobile gift card technology. No longer do you have to dig around looking for that plastic reloadable gift card — it is as simple as tapping an app on your smartphone and scanning for your purchase.

Sending a gift card to the coffee lover on your list is just as easy as well. Forget stepping foot and waiting in those long lines when you can go online and have the gift sent directly to someone’s email inbox.

“This means less junk in your wallet, less chance of losing them or having them stolen,” Keenan says.

iPhone users may also find a new app to keep these cards organized on their device. Passbook allows you to keep track of all your gift cards in one place.

Not everyone is going to enjoy checking their inbox on Christmas morning when they used to be checking their stockings or under the tree.

“Some people will always want to give physical cards, just as some people

will want to put a physical card in the mail,” Keenan says.

“Most will see the benefits of e-cards — a smart company would allow printing a very ornate certificate online to stuff in stocking.”

If you are lucky enough to have a U.S. address or U.S. credit card, sites like Giftly.com make it easy to send personalized gift cards by text, email or regular mail to any local business in your recipient’s area.

Hopefully, this technology will become more widely available in Canada for the next holiday season.

— Candice Ward



Drink of the Week

Uchuva Cocktail

- 150 grams whole uchuva (cape gooseberries)
- 150 ml water
- 150 g sugar
- 360 ml gin
- 540 ml sparkling wine, cold
- 18 uchivas, for muddling
- 24 mint leaves, for muddling
- 220 grams of ice
- Mint sprigs, for garnish

To make syrup, combine sugar and water in saucepan and cook over medium heat until sugar completely dissolves. Cool syrup in freezer. Combine uchivas and syrup in blender and process on high 1 min. Pass mix through fine mesh strainer and discard solids. In pitcher, combine 180 ml of uchuva syrup, mint leaves and 18 uchivas and muddle, 2 mins. Strain syrup and discard mint and uchuva pulp. Add gin and ice to syrup and stir 1 min. to chill; strain out ice. To serve, add sparkling wine, stir and divide the cocktail into 6 champagne flutes. Decorate each flute with a mint sprig.

PROEXPORT COLOMBIA



A very Colombian Christmas

Although many Canadian families have classic traditions for this time of year, it can be fun to spice things up with recipes from international hot spots.

Known for its historical urban centres, stunning beaches and Spanish nightlife, Colombia also has a lot to offer — even in the kitchen.

The country boasts scrumptious yuletide dishes that even the most amateur chef can prepare to impress guests by turning a typical holiday party

Ingredients

- 150 g uchuva (cape gooseberry), chopped
- 50 g pistachio, finely chopped
- 15 g cilantro, finely chopped
- 50 g shallot, finely chopped
- 50 ml extra virgin olive oil
- For the pork:**
- Pork tenderloin, cleaned
- Salt and black pepper
- 30 ml sunflower or grape seed oil
- 60 g butter
- 100 g uchuva, sliced
- 12 g thyme
- 8 garlic cloves
- 12 uchivas, thinly sliced for garnish

Pork Tenderloin and Uchuva Pesto



Wow your guests with the use of uchuva (gooseberry) in this main dish. PROEXPORT COLOMBIA.

into the ultimate fiesta. One of them is this Pork Tenderloin and Uchuva Pesto.

The “cape gooseberry,” commonly known in Colombia as uchuva, can be found in local grocery stores.

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F (205 C).

2. In bowl, combine the first five ingredients to prepare the

uchuva pesto and set aside.

3. Slice the pork tenderloin into 6 portions and season with salt and black pepper.

4. Heat a heavy oven-proof skillet on high heat for 2 minutes and add half of the oil. Sear 3 portions of tenderloin and cook until brown on one side. Turn to sear the other side and add half of the sliced uchivas,

butter, thyme and garlic and allow the butter to melt completely in the pan.

5. Lower the heat to low. Tilt the pan forward, cover the tenderloins with the butter-uchuva mixture for 2 minutes. Place on a plate, clean skillet and repeat cooking procedure for the other portions of meat.

6. Place the first three portions

back on the skillet and place in the oven. Cook for approximately 10 to 12 minutes. Remove the skillet from the oven and place the tenderloins on a rack to cool for 10 minutes.

7. Place the pork slices on a serving platter. Cover generously with the uchuva pesto and garnish with thinly sliced uchuva.

PROEXPORT COLOMBIA

This isn't your grandma's Fruit Cake

This Exotic Fruit Cake from Colombia isn't your average holiday treat. It will satisfy even the harshest fruit cake critic.

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F (177 C).

2. In a medium bowl, beat the eggs with the milk.

3. In a stand mixer, mix the flour, sugar, salt and baking powder on low speed.

4. Add the butter to the flour mixture little by little. When the butter is incorporated, add the egg mixture slowly. Stop the machine and scrape

Ingredients

- 3 eggs, room temperature
- 45 ml whole milk, room temperature
- 150 g cake flour
- 150 g white sugar
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 185 g butter, room temperature
- 1 1/2 cup exotic dried fruits (gooseberry, dragon fruit, mango, pineapple, guava, etc.)



Your guests will be pleasantly surprised when they bite into this Exotic Fruit Cake. PROEXPORT COLOMBIA

down the sides of the bowl. Beat the cake batter on high speed for 2 minutes.

5. Add the exotic dried fruit and stir with a spatula to combine.

6. Place batter in baking molds. For individual portions use muffin tins with paper cupcake liners. A greased bread mold may also be used. When using muffin tins, fill each only half way.

7. Bake the fruit cakes for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the middle

of the cakes comes out clean and dry.

8. Let the cakes rest for 10 minutes and then remove them from the mold. Serve warm. PROEXPORT COLOMBIA

Colombia's sweet side

metronews.ca

• For delicious Uchuva Angel Food Cup Cakes visit metronews.ca/food



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Student voice

All that I've gained from getting involved

Kelsey Goforth
Graduate
Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
University of Toronto
TalentEgg.ca

What's your school-to-work transition story?

While pursuing my undergraduate degree at the University of Toronto, I studied political science with an emphasis on human rights and international development. This past summer I was finishing up my final credit and was searching for the perfect summer job that would hopefully lead me into a career field directly related to these interests.

I was aware that a company called Public Outreach fundraised for developmental and human rights organizations and I had always been intrigued by the fundraisers that I had seen, but didn't picture myself taking on such a role.

However, on the advice of a friend, I applied. The role definitely surprised me. I had no idea how much I would be learning about various not-

for-profit charities and how many amazing conversations I would have with donors. One highlight is when I met a woman from Zimbabwe who actually received aid from one of the charities I was fundraising for.

The position turned into far more than a summer job when roles in the recruitment department opened up. I began applying and eventually, in August, I took on the role of U.S. Recruiter, where I was responsible for recruitment in Boston, Chicago, New York City and Minneapolis. I was able to transition quite quickly to my new role, going from fundraiser to recruiter in three short months. Being able to learn about the inner-workings of a whole new department has given me the opportunity to better understand and appreciate all that the company does.

What am I doing now?

I am currently in my fourth month as a Public Outreach Recruiter. In addition to my U.S. recruitment duties, I also contribute blog posts to our staff website. Outside of work, I like to pursue other interests that not only appeal to me but also give me an additional skill set to include on resu-



Kelsey Goforth. PROVIDED

més and applications. I write articles for TalentEgg and, additionally, I am beginning French courses in January in order to receive a certificate in french proficiency. Although I currently have a job, I do not want to prevent myself from continuing to learn more and develop my skills.

My recommendations for employers, career centres and schools

When it comes to campus career centres and their related programs, it is important to be well-advised and easily accessible. Students are busy with classes and extra-curriculars, so having flexible

hours is imperative. Secondly, many programs at schools aren't given the exposure they deserve. Often students are bombarded with information in their first year, however by the time fourth year rolls around and the job search becomes more intense, these programs are long forgotten about. When students approach their final years of education, universities and colleges should remind them that there is plenty of guidance and resources available.

My advice for students and recent graduates

- Get involved: As a student, it is important to think beyond essays and exams, and also take the time to get involved in your community. I personally found extra-curricular activities and volunteering to be extremely beneficial — both when it came to developing new skills as well as seeking employment.

- The importance of networking: The job market is competitive. Learning to write an impressive resumé is a great skill, however a piece of paper can only go so far. For me, networking has been the most effective means of both connecting with people with

similar interests and landing new jobs.

- Don't underestimate your skills: Take a chance when it comes to your job applications. Often students and recent graduates feel either under- or over-qualified for certain positions.

- Don't underestimate the experiences you have: Although you may be a recent graduate, your education, community involvement and past jobs all culminate to make you an excellent applicant. When applying for jobs you feel under-qualified for, keep in mind that the worst that can happen is being rejected.

- Don't overlook great opportunities: If I thought that being one of "those people on the street with the binders" was somehow beneath me, I wouldn't have been given the opportunity to work within the recruitment department. To grow with a company, it is important to start small and work your way up. It is only logical. You must learn the very basics if you want to eventually build on that and take on a more advanced role.

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Battle of the crease: Four goalies fight for junior jobs

World junior selection camp. Canada will take a third goaltender to Russia as insurance against injury

No goalie feels more pressure at the world junior hockey championship than Canada's starter, says the man cultivating the next one.

Ron Tugnutt is the Canadian team's goaltending coach and has personally experienced that kind of pressure. In addition to a long NHL career, Tugnutt twice represented Canada at the men's world championship.

"There's a lot more pressure on our goalie than on the other teams," Tugnutt said Tuesday at selection camp in Calgary.

When European teams win the semifinal, they're thrilled at the prospect of "at least" a silver medal, but Canadian players aren't interested in anything but gold, he said.

"When we win the semifinal game, we're only thinking one thing," Tugnutt added.

With no incumbent from the previous world junior championship, a major subplot of selection camp in Calgary

Red and White

Sudbury Wolves defenceman Frank Corrado scored the winner for Red in a 3-1 win over White on Tuesday in the Canadian junior hockey team's intrasquad game.

- Corrado struck with 63 seconds remaining and teammate Ryan Nugent-Hopkins of the Edmonton Oilers added an empty-net goal.

this week is who will be Canada's starter, backup and alternate at the 2013 world junior championship starting Dec. 26 in Ufa, Russia.

In a new development, Canada will take a third goaltender as insurance against injury because of the travel time required to get to Russia.

Malcolm Subban of the Belleville Bulls, Laurent Brosoit of the Edmonton Oil Kings, Jordan Binnington of the Owen Sound Attack and Jake Paterson of the Saginaw Spirit are the four invitees. There's little time for them to impress head coach Steve Spott as the 23-player team will be finalized on Thursday afternoon.

Coach Spott tried to damp-



Goalie Malcolm Subban stretches on Tuesday during the national junior hockey team selection camp in Calgary.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

en speculation that Subban, the younger brother of Montreal Canadiens defenceman P.K. Subban, has the inside track on the starting job because he plays on European-sized ice at Belleville's Yardmen Arena.

After four years on North

American ice, the world junior tournament returns to a surface four metres wider, with just over a half-metre more space between the back of the net and the end boards.

Tugnutt says Subban's big-ice experience is one check

mark in his favour.

"I think it is an advantage for him just because it is a different visual," Tugnutt said. "But that's not going to be the determining factor on what happens here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tagliabue overturns 'bounty' suspensions



New Orleans Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma. The suspensions of four current and former Saints players, including Vilma, have been overturned.

SCOTT ISKOWITZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

In a sharp rebuke to his successor's handling of the NFL's bounty investigation, former commissioner Paul Tagliabue overturned the suspensions of four current and former New Orleans Saints players in a case that has preoccupied the league for almost a year.

Tagliabue, who was appointed by commissioner Roger Goodell to handle the appeals, still found that three of the players engaged in conduct detrimental to the league. He said they participated in a performance pool that rewarded key plays — including hard tackles — that could merit fines. But he stressed that the

team's coaches were very much involved.

"My affirmation of commissioner Goodell's findings could certainly justify the issuance of fines. However, this entire case has been contaminated by the coaches and others in the Saints' organization," the ruling said.

Tagliabue oversaw a second round of player appeals in connection with the cash-for-hits program run by former defensive co-ordinator Gregg Williams from 2009 to 2011.

Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma had been given a full-season suspension, while defensive end Will Smith, Cleveland

Appeals

- None of the players sat out any games because of suspensions.
- They have been allowed to play while appeals are pending, though Fujita is on injured reserve and Hargrove is not with a team.

linebacker Scott Fujita and free-agent defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove each received shorter suspensions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lockout

NHL, players to resume talks on Wednesday

The NHL and NHL Players' Association will resume their collective bargaining negotiations at an undisclosed location on Wednesday — and they'll have some company.

U.S. federal mediators Scot L. Beckenbaugh and John Sweeney are set to rejoin the process.

It will be the first meeting since the two sides took public shots at each other after talks went off the rails last week.

Before the blow-up, they appeared to be making progress during three days in New York that saw an exchange of proposals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soccer

Sinclair nabs another award

Canadian soccer star Christine Sinclair added another award to cap a standout season.

The 29-year-old from Burnaby, B.C., was named the Canadian Soccer Association's female player of the year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tennis

Peliwo's stellar year ends with world's-best nod from ITF

Vancouver's Filip Peliwo was named the International Tennis Federation's junior tennis player of the year on Tuesday.

The 18-year-old reached the junior boys' final of all



Vancouver's Filip Peliwo

THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

four grand-slam tournaments this year, winning at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	16	5	.762	—
Miami	14	5	.737	1
Atlanta	12	6	.667	2½
Philadelphia	12	9	.571	4
Chicago	11	9	.550	4½
Brooklyn	11	9	.550	4½
Boston	11	9	.550	4½
Milwaukee	10	9	.526	5
Indiana	10	11	.476	6
Orlando	8	12	.400	7½
Charlotte	7	13	.350	8½
Detroit	7	17	.292	10½
Cleveland	5	17	.227	11½
Toronto	4	18	.182	12½
Washington	3	15	.167	11½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	17	4	.810	½
Memphis	14	4	.778	2
L.A. Clippers	15	6	.762	2½
Golden State	14	7	.667	3½
Utah	12	10	.545	6
Dallas	11	10	.524	6½
Denver	11	11	.500	7
Minnesota	9	9	.500	7
Houston	9	11	.450	8
Portland	9	12	.429	8½
L.A. Lakers	9	13	.409	9
Sacramento	7	13	.350	10
Phoenix	7	15	.318	11
New Orleans	5	15	.250	12

Division leaders ranked in top three positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Tuesday's results

Cleveland 100 L.A. Lakers 94
New York 100 Brooklyn 97

Denver 101 Detroit 94
Washington 77 New Orleans 70

L.A. Clippers 94 Chicago 89

Monday's results

Golden State 104 Charlotte 96
Philadelphia 104 Detroit 97

Miami 101 Atlanta 92

San Antonio 134 Houston 126 OT
Dallas 119 Sacramento 96

Portland 92 **Toronto 74**

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern

Brooklyn at **Toronto**, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Golden State at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Boston, 8 p.m.

Sacramento at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Washington at Houston, 8 p.m.

New Orleans at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

Memphis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Utah, 10:30 p.m.

NBA SCORING LEADERS

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	21	199	160	601	28.6
Durant, Okl	21	181	171	566	27.0
Anthony, NYK	18	165	109	482	26.8
James, Mia	19	190	73	479	25.2
Harden, Hou	19	140	151	469	24.7
Westbrook, Okl	21	162	94	451	21.5
Aldridge, Por	20	166	87	419	21.0
Mayo, Dal	21	153	69	436	20.8
Curry, GoS	21	144	75	421	20.0
Pierce, Bos	20	122	108	384	19.2
Gay, Mem	18	130	59	342	19.0
Parker, SA	20	153	63	377	18.9
Lee, GoS	21	162	71	395	18.8

Not including last night's games

LATE MONDAY NIGHT

TRAIL BLAZERS 92, RAPTORS 74

TORONTO (74)

DeRozan 7-16 6-6 20, Davis 3-7 8-8 14,
Calderon 4-7 2-2 12, Pietrus 3-13 2-4 9,
Valanciunas 4-6 0-0 8, Johnson 2-6 0-0 4,
Bargnani 1-3 0-0 2, Gray 1-2 0-0 2, Ross
1-5 0-0 2, Lowry 0-5 1-1 1, Lucas 0-4 0-0 0.
Totals 26-74 19-21 74.

PORTLAND (92)

Aldridge 11-19 8-8 30, Hickson 7-7 2-3 16,
Smith 4-10 3-3 11, Pavlovic 5-12 0-1 10,
Lillard 2-14 5-5 9, Leonard 2-3 2-2 6, Babbitt
2-9 0-4 4, Claver 2-12 0-0 4, Jeffries 1-2 0-0
2, Barton 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 36-89 20-22 92.

Toronto 19 21 19 15 — 74
Portland 18 26 20 28 — 92

3-Point Goals—Toronto 3-21 (Pietrus 1-7,
Calderon 2-4, Lucas 0-4, DeRozan 0-2,

Bargnani 0-2, Lowry 0-1, Ross 0-1). Portland

0-20 (Pavlovic 0-5, Babbitt 0-5, Lillard

0-5, Claver 0-3, Smith 0-1, Leonard 0-1).

Rebounds—Toronto 45 (Valanciunas 10,
Davis 9, Lowry 7, DeRozan 4, Johnson 4,

Pietrus 3, Gray 3, Calderon 2, Bargnani 2,

Ross 1). Portland 48 (Aldridge 12, Hickson

11, Pavlovic 7, Lillard 5, Claver 5, Jeffries 4,
Babbitt 3, Leonard 1). **Assists**—Toronto 13

(Calderon 6). Portland 16 (Lillard 6).

Total Fouls—Toronto 20, Portland 18.

Attendance—16,863 at Portland. T—2:08

RAPTORS STATISTICS

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
DeRozan	22	153	90	406	18.5
Bargnani	21	127	53	337	16.0
Lowry	16	78	72	253	15.8
Pietrus	5	18	6	52	10.4
Calderon	22	72	30	211	9.6
Valanciunas	22	72	37	181	8.2
Kleiza	13	33	19	97	7.5
Anderson	6	14	8	44	7.3
Johnson	22	61	33	157	7.1
Davis	22	52	34	138	6.3
Ross	20	45	2	106	5.3
Lucas	17	20	4	53	3.1
Fields	5	5	2	12	2.4
Acy	3	1	5	7	2.3
Gray	10	7	2	16	1.6

SOCCER

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Yesterday's result

Sunderland 3 Reading 0

FRANCE

LIGUE 1

Yesterday's results

Nice 1 Rennes 0
Paris SG 4 Valenciennes 0

Lille 2 Toulouse 0

SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH FA CUP

Fourth Round

Yesterday's results

Inverness 2 F.C.2 Ross County 1
Aberdeen 2 Motherwell 1

AHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION									
	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt	
Worcester	23	12	8	1	2	65	70	27	
Providence	22	12	8	0	2	53	61	26	
Portland	24	12	10	1	1	74	79	26	
Manchester	24	11	10	2	1	68	61	25	
St. Johns	25	11	13	0	1	59	71	23	

NORTHEAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt	
Springfield	22	14	4	1	3	79	47	32	
Bridgeport	24	11	11	1	1	73	81	24	
Connecticut	23	10	11	2	0	69	82	22	
Adirondack	23	10	12	1	0	59	69	21	
Albany	20	7	8	0	5	54	44	19	

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt	
Syracuse	23	14	6	1	2	64	67	31	
Binghamton	20	13	5	1	1	64	48	28	
W-B/Scranton	22	13	7	1	1	65	55	28	
Hershey	25	12	12	1	0	66	71	25	
Norfolk	22	10	12	0	0	63	68	20	

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTH DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt	
Abbotsford	24	14	4	3	3	63	48	34	
Toronto	23	13	9	0	1	76	65	27	
Lake Erie	25	12	11	1	1	74	78	26	
Rochester	22	11	9	2	0	72	66	24	
Hamilton	21	9	10	1	1	43	64	20	

MIDWEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt	
Grand Rapids	22	13	7	1	1	74	62	28	
Rockford	25	13	11	0	1	81	76	27	
Chicago	22	10	9	2	1	58	66	23	
Milwaukee	23	10	10	2	1	64	70	23	
Peoria	24	9	11	2	2	57	82	22	

SOUTH

	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	GF	GA	Pt	
Charlotte	25	14	9	0	2	82	71	30	
Houston	23	13	7	1	2	76	64	29	
Texas Stars	23	12	8	2	1	58	62	27	
Oklahoma City	21	11	9	1	2	73	70	25	
San Antonio	25	10	12	0	3	66	75	23	

Tuesday's results

Houston 5 San Antonio 1
Hershey 2 St. Johns 1

Portland 2 Bridgeport 1, (OT)

Charlotte 3 Milwaukee 1

Rochester 3 Abbotsford 2, (SO)

Hamilton 1 Lake Erie 0

Peoria 4 Oklahoma City 2

Wednesday's games — All Times Eastern

Hershey at St. John's, 6:30 p.m.

W-B/Scranton at Albany, 7 p.m.

Worcester at Connecticut, 7 p.m.

Binghamton at Syracuse, 7 p.m.

Thursday's games

Rochester at Lake Erie, 7 p.m.

Hamilton at Chicago, 8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 14

Syracuse at Adirondack, 7 p.m.

Manchester at Portland, 7 p.m.

Albany at Connecticut, 7 p.m.

Peoria at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.

Houston at Charlotte, 7 p.m.

Springfield at Providence, 7:05 p.m.

Binghamton at W-B/Scranton, 7:05 p.m.

Bridgeport at Norfolk, 7:30 p.m.

Rockford at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.

San Antonio at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.

Texas at Abbotsford, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with LHP George Sherrill, RHP Dan Wheeler and OF Willy Taveras on minor league contracts.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Agreed to terms with RHP Claudio Vargas, RHP Richard Thompson, LHP Juan Perez, 3B Eugenio Velez and 1B/DH Luis Jimenez on minor league contracts.

NFL

NFL — Overtured suspensions of New Orleans LB Jonathan Vilma, New Orleans DE Will Smith, Cleveland LB Scott Fujita and free agent DL Anthony Hargrove for their part in the Saints bounty program.

Suspended Baltimore CB Asa Jackson four games for violating the league's policy on performance enhancing substances.

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Released WR Isalah Williams from the practice squad.

BUFFALO BILLS — Placed RB Fred Jackson on injured reserve. Signed DT Jay Ross from the practice squad.

CHICAGO BEARS — Released OL Andre Gurode. Placed PK Robbie Gould, CB Sherrick McManis and S Craig Steltz on injured reserve. Signed PK Olindo Mare to a one-year contract and LB Jerry Franklin to a two-year contract. Signed WR Joe Anderson from the practice squad and G Chris Riley to the practice squad.

DENVER BRONCOS — Signed T Paul Cornick to the practice squad.

GREEN BAY PACKERS — Released LB Vic So'oito. Signed DT Jordan Miller from the practice squad.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Placed G Mike Brewster on injured reserve. Signed RB Keith Toston.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Placed WR Donté Stallworth on injured reserve.

Released TE Visanthe Shiancoe. Released OL Tommie Drachem from the practice squad.

NEW YORK JETS — Claimed WR Braylon Edwards off waivers from Seattle.

OAKLAND RAIDERS — Signed WR Akwasi Ovuusu-Ansah to the practice squad.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Suspended RB Rashard Mendenhall for conduct detrimental to the team. Signed RB Baron Batch from the practice squad.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Placed DT Demarcus Dobbs on injured reserve.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Released WR Braylon Edwards.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Released WR David Gilreath. Placed DB Myron Lewis on injured reserve. Claimed G Hayworth Hicks off waivers from Kansas City.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Released RB Lennon Creer from the practice squad. Signed TE Martell Webb to the practice squad.

CFL

B.C. LIONS — Signed LB Adam Bighill to a contract extension.

CALGARY STAMPEDEERS — Signed DL Corey Mace to a contract extension.

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS — Fired coach and director of football operations George Cortez.

MLS

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION — Traded M Benny Feilhaber to Sporting Kansas City for allocation money, a 2014 first-round draft pick and a 2015 second-round draft pick.

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Signed G Santiago Castano and F Armando Moreno.

Flex your 2013 Ford muscles



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

Space

From front to back, the Flex appears as straight up and down as a shoebox, which is a major contributor to its overall roominess. Although its six, or seven, passenger layout is near tops in this segment, cargo space with the rear seats in place or folded completely flat is about average.



The Flex's dashboard

2013 Ford Flex

- **Type.** Four-door, front/all-wheel-drive, full size wagon.
- **Engines (hp).** 3.5-litre DOHC V6 (287), 3.5 litre DOHC V6, twin-turbocharged (365).
- **Transmission.** Six-speed automatic
- **Base price (incl. destination).** \$32,150

Design

The Flex is mostly rectangular and has highly practical styling. Ford's designers made no attempt to disguise the vehicle's significant size, but for the 2013 model year they did devise a far more expressive nose consisting of a single brushed aluminum bar flanked by projector beam-style headlights.

Engine

The standard 3.5-litre V6 now makes 287 horsepower and 254 pound-feet of torque, a gain of 25 horses and six pound-feet from the 2012 engine. Optional is the returning 3.5-litre twin-turbocharged "EcoBoost" V6 rated at 365 (hp) and 350 pound-feet of torque, but only if it's fed premium-grade gasoline.

Review. If there's one vehicle that lives up to its name, this is it!

MALCOLM GUNN

Wheelbase Media

Say what you will about the Ford Flex, this big-rig takes its people and cargo-carrying role seriously, but with a sly wink and a nod when the topic of styling is mentioned.

Wagon-style bodies are somewhat of a Ford specialty. Along with the Flex, three-row seating is offered in the full-size

Expedition and the Explorer, while the Edge, Escape and the passenger version of the Transit Connect cargo van provide space for five.

Among them, however, the Flex is unique. It sits low to the ground like a regular sedan and shares the same platform with the Lincoln MKT wagon. That's preferable for those who want to access their vehicle without using a stepladder.

For 2013, Ford has upgraded the Flex in other ways, including the availability of second-row seatbelts that act a bit like airbags and inflate within 40 milliseconds of a crash. Additional extra-cost safety gear

consists of radar-based adaptive cruise control that keeps a steady distance from the vehicle in front, and blind spot information with cross-traffic alert that warns of overtaking vehicles and vehicles approaching from either side when backing out of a parking spot. Then there's curve control that can detect when the Flex is entering a turn too quickly and within a second applies braking force to slow the vehicle down by up to 16 km/h.

The Flex's three-model line up starts with the \$32,150 (including destination charges) SE that arrives fairly well equipped with all the usual accessories



The Flex can seat six or seven people depending on your order.

and gadgets.

The Flex's oversize dimensions and rectangular silhouette might give some buyers

pause, but if you're seeking something different, thinking inside the box could make this Ford the perfect fit.

5
DRIVE



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© 2012 Mercedes-Benz Canada Inc. 2013 C 350/GLK 350 4MATIC™ shown above, National MSRP \$44,750/\$44,900. **Total price of \$42,630/\$47,540 and down payment include freight/PDI of \$1,995, dealer admin fee of \$495, air-conditioning levy of \$100, EHF tires, filters, batteries of \$16.00, PPSA up to \$27.80 and AMVIC fee of \$6.25. *Lease and finance offers based on the 2013 C 300 4MATIC™/all-new 2013 GLK 350 4MATIC™ available only through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services on approved credit for a limited time. Lease example based on \$358/\$468 per month for 48/36 months. Down payment or equivalent trade of \$7,080/\$6,530 plus security deposit of \$400/\$500 and applicable taxes due at lease inception. MSRP starting at \$39,990/\$44,900. Lease APR of 2.9% applies. Total obligation is \$24,633/\$25,256. 18,000 km/year allowance (\$0.20/km for excess kilometres applies). Finance example is based on a 60-month term and a finance APR of 0.9% and an MSRP of \$39,990/\$44,900. Monthly payment is \$588/\$663 (excluding taxes) with \$6,439/\$7,130 down payment or equivalent trade in. Cost of borrowing is \$795/\$897 for a total obligation of \$41,897/\$46,909. Vehicle licence, insurance, and registration are extra. Dealer may lease or finance for less. Offers may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. See your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer for details or call the Mercedes-Benz Customer Relations Centre at 1-800-387-0100. Offer ends December 31, 2012. Additional 1% lease and finance rate reduction offer ends December 22nd.

Enter the premium people-carrier class with this Mercedes stalwart

Second Gear.

2006-2011 Mercedes B-Class

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD

Drive@metronews.ca

The Mercedes B200 was the German brand's first foray into the Canadian mini-crossover market. Slotted somewhere between a wagon, crossover and minivan, this five-door model proved a highly functional, upscale and efficient people hauler. Flexible and big on comfort and utility, this little Benz was only sold in Canada on our side of the ocean.

A panoramic sunroof, projector lights, heated leather, automatic climate control, Bluetooth and remote keyless access were among the B-Class's available features.

Common Issues

Have the brakes inspected, asking the mechanic to pay extra attention to the rear brakes for signs of excessive or uneven wear, or rust. Any unwelcomed noises, resistance or a 'notchy' feeling to the steering as you turn the steering from lock to lock could indicate a problem with the steering rack.

Double check the oil level and condition in the B-Class you're considering, and be certain the seller was a fan of frequent, high-quality oil changes.

Run the panoramic roof (if equipped) fully between its open and closed positions, ensuring it works properly.

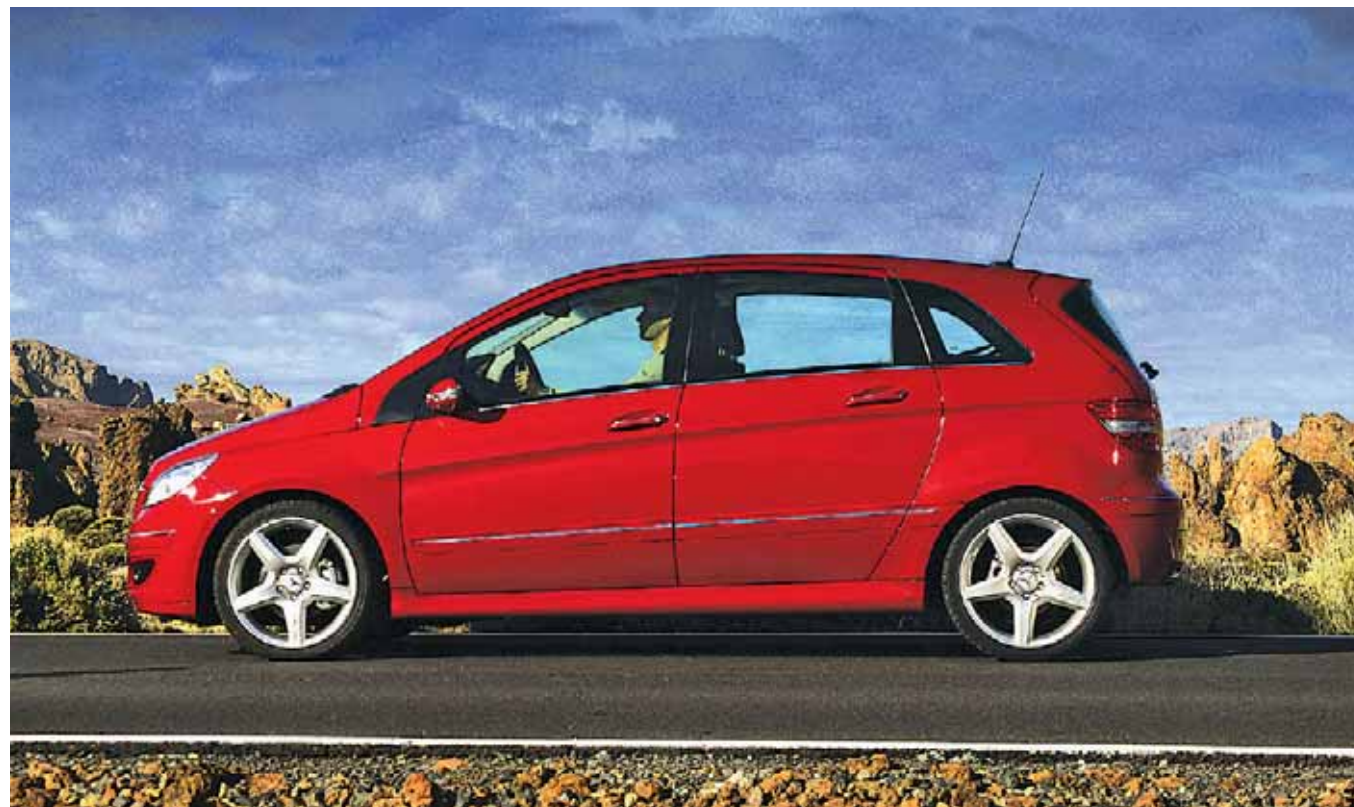


PHOTO: HANDOUT

Finally, note that the B-Class's CVT transmission should provide seamless and liquid-smooth acceleration. Any hesitation, jerkiness or driveability issues, possibly accompanied by warning messages in the instrument cluster, could be the result of a faulty sensor or control module related to the transmission. Opt for a manual-equipped model where possible.

Engine



Power came from a two-litre, 134 horsepower four-cylinder engine in the B200, or a 193-horsepower turbo-charged version thereof, in the B200 Turbo. Manual or CVT transmissions were both available, depending on the model.

What owners like



Noted were high levels of build quality, cabin comfort, and smooth and effortless performance on turbo-charged models. Overall flexibility, maneuverability and visibility were also highly rated.

What owners dislike



Some owners wish for quicker reactions to their stereo system inputs, and a more consistent feel to the B200's electronic throttle.

Verdict

Shoppers willing to pay a premium in the used market can expect the B-Class's upscale looks, cabin and ride to help justify the higher price. Ditto its efficient, sporty performance and everyday utility.

2012 LINCOLN MKZ

Cash purchase for only
\$29,891**

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The hustle and bustle of the show. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



This model is part of Honda's new CB500 line.



The Suzuki GW250.

The All New Redesigned

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The All New Redesigned

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Motorcycle show big on the small

Autopilot



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

I wouldn't say there is anything wrong with an outrageously loud and over-powered Orange County chopper, especially to the weathered face and tattooed biceps of a large person who just got off such a bike in the parking lot. But bigger motorbikes are just not my style.

I love small motorcycles. They're fun to ride and easy to own. And I'm in the styling camp that gravitates to

great proportions above all else, so to me, overall size has very little to do with the visual impact and/or appeal of any given bike or car.

So I was thrilled to see so many neat and smallish rides on the show floor of last weekend's motorcycle show in Toronto.

This is the show run by the manufacturers, via its Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council (MMIC). After Toronto, the MMIC show makes stops in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Quebec, Moncton and Montreal. (Check local listings for dates and venues).

At last year's show, for example, you wouldn't have seen the new Suzuki GW250, or Honda's new CB500 line (CB500F,

CB500X, CBR500R). Honda suddenly has a very attractive and logical progression of street bikes, in 125-cc, 250-cc and 500-cc formats.

"People want an affordable entry level motorcycle. That's where the market is going right now," said Dave Hawson, director of sales and marketing for Suzuki Canada's motorcycle, ATV and marine division.

Hawson added that a lot of the "affordability" of smaller bikes manifests itself in the insurance end, especially for younger and/or newer riders.

He's dead right. My small phone survey to brokers revealed that an 18-year-old looking to insure a 600-cc sportbike in the GTA would be looking at premiums of

Market trend

"People want an affordable, entry level motorcycle. That's where the market is going right now."

Dave Hawson, director of sales and marketing for Suzuki Canada's motorcycle, ATV and marine division
On what the average recession-hit motorbike customer is looking for these days

about \$3,500 to \$4,000 and beyond. By contrast, that same 18-year-old rider could insure a 250-cc bike in the GTA for \$1,500 to \$2,000 — basically half the price.

At the show I ran into Dave Mackenzie of Motorsports Canada, which imports the Wolf Classic 150

— a Honda Rebel knockoff with a 150-cc engine. He felt that up until a few years ago, the Canadian market was "starved" of small motorcycles.

He believed the big brands shied away from them here in North America, because there was simply more money to be found, per unit, in the larger bike formats.

I guess it's hard to say whether that was the case, or if it was simply a case of no one wanting to buy the smaller bikes back then.

But there is no denying, however, that the big brands are more aware and concerned than ever that their biggest group of motorcycles buyers — the boomers — are getting older and older and

will soon fade from the scene and that they need a new generation of buyers to get into motorcycling culture.

Insurance and industry forces aside, I think people have also generally rediscovered the joys of smallish motorcycles, after years of chasing horsepower and their high-speed capabilities.

For those that like the bigger stuff, have no fear. The influx of smaller bikes has not diminished the number of variety of big, powerful bikes, in all their guises.

To each their own, I say, even if they are so wrong in their big-bike convictions that they can no longer be saved from them.

Even by me.



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GT model shown

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Starting from \$25,215*

Finance from
\$158[†] **AT** **3.99%** **FOR** **84**
bi-weekly APR months

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2012 MAZDA3 SKYACTIV

Starting from **\$18,995***

Finance from
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bi-weekly

AT **0%** APR FOR **84** months

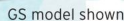
On finance price from \$21,215

4.9 L/100 km
highway

58 mpg[†]

7.1 L/100 km
city

40 mpg[†]

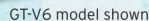


2012 MAZDA2

Starting from **\$13,765***

Finance from
\$90[†] **AT** **0.99%** **FOR** **84**
bi-weekly APR months

On finance price from \$15,765



2013 MAZDA6

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On finance price from \$26,120



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Helpful steering wheel controls can keep your eyes on the road and nowhere else. HANDOUT

Find it difficult to keep your focus on the road?

Here's some help. These handy extras will allow you to concentrate solely on what lies ahead when embarking on long or short journeys

**JUSTIN
PRITCHARD**
Drive@metronews.ca

"Eyes on the road, hands on the wheel" is a simple ideology when it comes to safety on the go. It's an ideology that affords drivers plenty of warning about upcoming hazards, and more time to react to avoid them.

It's especially important in wintertime, when icy roads and cold tires mean more time is needed to stop for or steer around a situation.

If you haven't been in the new car market for a few years, you'll be delighted at the availability of once-expensive features that can help keep your attention on the road ahead.

A variety of high-tech, fully-automatic and voice-commanded systems, once reserved for high-dollar luxury cars, are now available on most models — allowing drivers to manipulate vehicle systems and functions without breaking their attention. Here are a few of the most important.

Rain-sensing wipers

At any sign of precipitation on the vehicle's windshield, rain-sensing wipers kick into action, adjusting their speed constantly in response to the level of precipitation. Whether its snow, ice or freezing rain, rain-sensing wipers leave drivers one less thing to think about when the weather turns nasty.

Steering-wheel mounted controls

More cars than ever offer steering-wheel mounted controls as standard equipment. By putting controls for phone, cruise control, audio system and even climate control on the face of the steering wheel, drivers can control many functions with-

out having to look down or move their hands.

Bluetooth

This wireless communications system is now standard and available in virtually every vehicle sold in Canada. Bluetooth puts the kibosh on driver distraction related to using a cell-phone on the move — allowing calls to be placed, accepted or dismissed via voice-command and a single steering-wheel mounted button. If you're delayed by a snowstorm, Bluetooth allows you to safely call ahead and tell the family you'll be late, without pulling over or handling your handset.

Automatic climate control

Staying comfortable is a good way to avoid the stress caused by driving in lousy weather — and automatic climate control makes it easy. An automatic climate control system uses a sensor to constantly watch cabin temperatures and make adjustments in real time to maintain a pre-set temperature. Your comfort is maintained for you automatically as you keep

both hands on the wheel.

Automatic Lights

Simple concept, this one. When it gets dark, the headlights turn on, on their own. Forget accidentally driving around with just the running lamps, which is dangerous. Set the controls to AUTO, and you'll have optimal visibility at all times. Best of all, since automatic lights turn off when you leave the car, you'll never come back to a dead battery in the middle of winter, either. Some models, like the Chrysler 300 and Mercedes-Benz E-Class, even have automatic high-beams.

Voice Command

Not long ago, voice command was the stuff of sci-fi movies. Today, you can find it in cars like the Honda Civic, Kia Rio and Dodge Dart. In most applications, voice command allows drivers to simply touch a button and say, for instance, "Radio, 92.4 FM", "Navigate home" or "Call mom". Hundreds of vehicle functions can be controlled with your voice, enhancing safety.

With visibility vital, winter wipers always keep safety in sight



Choose your blades wisely for the cutting winter ahead. HANDOUT

Driving Force.

Just like tires, it's wise to switch wipers when the cold kicks in to ensure maximum safety

JILL
MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Your wiper blades are among the most critical safety features on your vehicle. If you can't see, you're not safe, and dirt builds up quickly in winter weather.

"Visibility is extremely important," says Graham Jeffrey, winter driving expert for Canadian Tire. "You want the wiper that will give you the best possible performance."

The claw structure, one of the oldest designs, uses a thin blade. A more modern design is the beam blade, which uses a wider wiper.

"Instead of pressure points like the claw structure, the beam maintains even pressure across the

blade, which gives it a more consistent wipe," Jeffrey says.

"And with the claw structure, there are open spaces where you can get a lot of snow build-up, which limits the wiper's ability to form to the windshield and give you a solid wipe."

At higher speeds, claw blades are more susceptible to wind, which can lift them off the glass and cause chatter. Beam blades are more aerodynamic and aren't as affected by this.

Just as you can put winter tires on your car, you can also switch to winter wiper blades. Originally these were claw blades with a rubber boot that prevented them clogging with snow.

Today's winter blades use a special rubber compound that stays supple at very low temperatures. Most will wear quickly in hot weather, so it's best to switch to regular blades in spring, and store these pricier blades until next winter.

"A beam blade on its own is not defined as a

Rules

- **No dirty blades.** Always replace your wiper blades if they start to streak or leave dirty patches.
- **Choose correct fluid.** Use windshield washer fluid that's formulated for winter temperatures. If fluid freezes on the glass, you won't be able to see.
- **Double check wiper choice.** Some vehicles have two different sized wiper blades, due to the shape of the windshield, so be sure you're buying the right ones.

winter wiper blade," Jeffrey says.

"Beam blades have a significant advantage over a claw blade, and if you're only going to use one year-round, the beam blade is better. But when you get into a winter blade, you get that winter com-

Quoted

"A beam blade on its own is not defined as a winter wiper blade. Beam blades have a significant advantage over a claw blade and if you're going to use one all year round the beam blade is better."

Graham Jeffrey, winter driving expert for Canadian Tire
On the importance of choosing the right windshield wiper.

pound too."

When cleaning ice off your windshield, be careful not to hit your wiper blades with the scraper. If the blades are stuck to the windshield, turn on the defrosters to help free them. If you just pull on them, they may tear.

And never shut off your engine with the wipers on: if they freeze to the glass, it could damage the wiper motor when you restart the car.

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© 2012 Mercedes-Benz Canada Inc. 2011 model shown. *0.9% financing only available through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services on approved credit for a limited time. Only available for finance for up to 36 months and only applicable to MY 2008-2010 Certified Mercedes-Benz (less than 140,000 km) and MY 2008-2010 Certified smart models (less than 100,000 km). Finance example based on a 2008 model: \$20,000 at 0.9% per annum equals \$563.30 per month for 36 months. Cost of borrowing is \$279 for a total obligation of \$20,279. Down payment may be required. **First, second and third month payment are waived for finance programs only on 2008-2011 Certified pre-owned vehicles. The payment waivers are capped up to a total of \$500/month including tax. Licence, insurance, taxes and PPSA are extra. Additional provincial-specific fees, taxes and charges may be extra. Dealer may lease or finance for less. See your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer for details or call the Mercedes-Benz Customer Relations Centre at 1-800-387-0100. Offer ends November 30th, 2012.

Parts Department

Whether it's a Christmas gift, a novelty birthday gift or just something for yourself, here are some ideas for unique automotive-inspired presents.

WHEELBASE MEDIA



A picture-perfect frame

Auto enthusiasts who are proud of their particular rides usually like to display photos of them in their homes and offices. Camisasca Automotive Manufacturing Inc. has developed a realistic-looking licence plate picture frame. The frames are large enough to hold a 4 by 6-inch image and are available in a hand-polished mirror-bright finish or in black. In addition, the frames come with both hinged easel support and metal wall hanger for easy display. Each frame costs \$55 US plus shipping. To order, go to caminastore.com.

Tool chest for tykes

If your child or grandchild shares your passion for racing, the Tool Chest Dresser from The Step2 Company would make a fun piece of bedroom furniture. The dresser's 79 by 79 by 40 centimetre-deep molded double-wall poly construction should prove virtually kid-proof. Each of the four doors opens wide for easy access to clothing, toys, etc. that can be stored on or below the molded-in centre shelf. But the fun part is that each dresser includes a package of racecar sponsorship decals that you can apply wherever and however you want. The Tool Chest Dresser unit sells for \$100 US and can be purchased through step2.com/p/Tool-Chest-Dresser.



Pump up the volume...

Your significant other might not appreciate this old-style Black Gold Gas Pump CD/DVD holder placed in the living room or in another prominent spot in your home, so you'll likely have to locate it in your garage, rec room or home office. Either way, this 23 by 23 by 56-centimetre-tall cabinet from Asher Home Decorators will be a conversation magnet. The handmade, antiqued wood gas pump with embossed Black Gold logos comes with four built-in shelves for video/audio media storage, etc. This item retails for \$100 US and is available through asherhomedecorators.com.



Ask the auto 8 ball

When shaken or turned upside down, the Automotive Diagnostic 8 Ball from Automotive Video Inc. 8 Ball does what any 8 Ball does: It mystically and magically supplies an answer to an auto-related question. In this case, it will merrily determine what's ailing your vehicle, from the simple to the very expensive. And if you don't like its initial diagnosis, just shake it again and again until a more acceptable answer presents itself. Sounds like the ideal gift for the auto "expert" in the family. It's a bargain at \$15 US from auto-video.com.

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Eight automotive page turners

One of most accessible gifts you can get a car lover is a book. Local stores are stocked to the gills with them at this time of year and online sources can basically deliver them right to your door in a few days. However, what book to get is the tricky part. While it might be easy to simply pick up the first glossy-picture tome you see, getting a book with some actual words and a real story is what really gets us going. And that selection requires a little research. Well, we're your research. So, here are a few suggestions that are sure to beef up the library of any auto enthusiast.

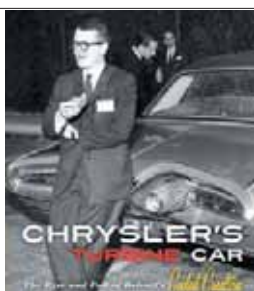
JEFF MELNYCHUK

Wheelbase Media

1

One cool Chrysler

Long before auto-makers began developing alternatives to piston-driven powerplants, Chrysler Corporation was working out the kinks for jet-style turbine power, although not to any satisfactory conclusion. Author Steve Lehto has documented these efforts in his book *Chrysler's Turbine Car*, *The Rise and Fall of Detroit's Coolest Creation*. Chrysler commissioned 55 of these jet-style turbine-engine cars and loaned them for testing by selected families throughout the United States. For a variety of reasons, Chrysler decided against turbine power and all but nine of the vehicles were destroyed.



The 'Vette turns 60

Hard to imagine, but what is considered North America's first sports car turns 60 in 2013. Author Randy Leffingwell has considerable experience writing about the Corvette and produced a weighty coffee-table tome on the subject's 50th anniversary. His latest book expands on the topic and includes photos (many never before published), descriptions and considerable commentary on all six generations of Corvettes, from 1953 to the present day. Leffingwell also reviews the people who have influenced the car's development, including designers, engineers, marketers and racing drivers.

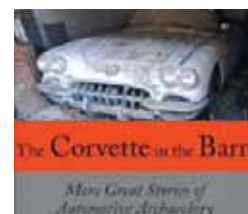


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More barn finds

Author Tom Kotter recently launched *The Corvette in the Barn*, a continuation of his *In the Barn* book series. The stories focus on when, where and how people have located rare and/or collectable vehicles that have been stashed away for years in barns, garages, warehouses and fields, etc. Many of the cars have a strong connection to the original, or bequeathed owners who, in most cases, are reluctant to part with their treasures. How they are finally convinced to part with these abandoned classics, which are restored to good running order makes for fascinating reading.



8

Colour your cars

Dover Publications' series of automotive-themed colouring books is perfect for whiling away the hours as you attempt to keep within the lines. The titles include *Classic Cars of the Fifties*, *American Muscle Cars*, *Racing Cars* and *Historic Automobiles*. Some also include key facts and statistics about the various vehicles and, in particular, the *Classic Racing Cars* book also includes the correct colour code for each illustration. The colouring books start at \$4 US each and can be purchased at doverpublications.com.

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The racing actor

There are books about famous movie stars and books about famous auto racers, but rarely do the two disciplines converge. Paul Newman is one example, while Hollywood legend Steve McQueen, who died at age 50 from cancer in 1980, would be another. It was his 1971 portrayal as Porsche-pilot Michael Delaney in *Le Mans* (a movie he also produced) where McQueen displayed his absolute fanaticism for auto racing. Frédéric Brun's book *Steve McQueen A Passion For Speed* is full of behind-the-scenes photos of the actor/racer's obsession in front of the camera as well as participating in various racing events. It's \$40 US from motorbooks.com.



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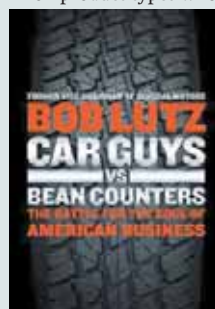
Who's the Boss?

The original Ford Mustang was perceived by the auto-maker as a blank canvas from which a competitive racing machine could be forged. Over the decades, the Boss attained cult status, with prices for the few original versions skyrocketing. Donald Farr's book *Mustang Boss 302: From Racing Legend to Modern Muscle Car*, traces the origins of the Boss project and picks up the story with the designation's return for the 2012 model year. If your recipient is in love with the look of the Mustang, then this book proves that it's more than just about cake-dressing.



Think like a car

One of the most famous men in the car biz is Bob Lutz, who was General Motors' product king right up until its bankruptcy a few years back. While it would be easy to toss Bob under the bus for his perceived role, his accounting of what actually happened might have you thinking differently. Bob Lutz's *Car Guys vs. Bean Counters* chronicles an ongoing battle with non-product types who actually shape product through cost cutting, a philosophy that nearly spelled doom for General Motors. This head-in-the-sand culture was apparently prevalent during Lutz's time as a General Motors executive.

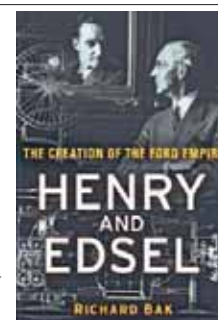


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Those founding Fords

Henry and Edsel: The Creation of the Ford Empire, by Richard Bak, delves into the background of one of the most famous inventor/moguls the world has ever known. Bak not only traces the genesis of the Ford company, but lays bare the often troubled and tempestuous relationship between Henry Ford and the son who predeceased him. Also covered is the relationship between the senior Ford and Harry Bennett, his right-hand man and the person who, as Ford's security director, was also frequently at odds with Henry's son.



Clear any driveshaft issue before you take charge in your Charger

Second Gear.

2006-2010 Dodge Charger offers styling, spaciousness and three engine options — but watch for driveshaft issues

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

In its last generation, the Dodge Charger was a Canadian-built American sedan that offered up plenty of space, power and feature content. Sharing the same rear-drive 'LX' platform as the Chrysler 300 and Dodge Magnum, it offered up plenty of room, available HEMI V8 power and a comfortable, laid-back ride. Look for feature content including Bluetooth, navigation, heated leather, a sunroof, automatic climate control, remote access, cruise control, power seats and plenty more.



Common Issues

On HEMI-powered units especially, ensure the engine runs smoothly from idle to redline while accelerating lightly, moderately, and at full-throttle where traffic conditions permit. Any lumpiness or hesitation in power delivery could be the result of a computer or sensor-related issue.

A full check of the Charger's on-board electronics is advised, ensuring all motorized or computer-driven features work properly and as expected.

Numerous reports of issues with the Charger's driveshaft have been posted online—so be sure to have this component checked by a mechanic. Signs of a bad driveshaft could include a 'vibration' from beneath the car at speed or while accelerating. Test-drivers are also advised to 'listen' for any unwelcomed noises from the front suspension.

Finally, ensure the gear selector moves freely between its positions. Charger may be affected by

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a fairly common problem with a part inside the selector mechanism that

can prevent it from being shifted, particularly out of 'PARK'.

Engine

Charger offered up 3 engine options. The standard 2.7 litre V6 should be avoided because of reliability concerns—leaving shoppers to pick between a 3.5 litre V6 with 250 horsepower, or a 5.7 litre HEMI V8 with up to 370. Automatic transmissions were fitted to all models, and all-wheel drive was optional.

What owners dislike

Some owners complain of limited outward visibility, big blind spots, poor fuel consumption with the V8, and a 'slippery' feel to driving the Charger in the rain or snow. Proper winter tires should address the latter.

What owners like

Styling, roominess, a generous trunk, overall value and overall performance were all highly rated by Charger owners. Particularly, HEMI-powered models were loved for robust acceleration and sound effects.

Verdict

Shoppers longing for style, size and performance over fuel mileage shouldn't be disappointed by a healthy, well-maintained Charger. Shop with confidence once the model you're considering gets a thumbs-up from a mechanic.

Honda won't be caught out in the cold

Interview. Honda Canada's manager of product planning talks to Metro about the brand's winter testing

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Our cars, vans and crossovers don't like being forced into action on a cold morning any more than we do, let alone after sleeping outside covered in ice and salt. Yet, Canadians everywhere will soon begin

waking up their Hondas and Dodges and Fords and Volkswagens at 30 below and setting off with little second thought about the cruel challenges posed by the extreme temperatures.

Simply put, your car is expected to perform the same way, every day of the year—cold or not. For a closer look at how automakers ensure that's the case, I talked to Hayato Mori, Honda Canada's Manager of Product Planning.

JP: How do you make sure a car will start without being plugged in at temperatures that make us cringe?

HM: For gasoline to be ignited

by a spark plug, it needs to be in vapour form—and not much evaporates in the cold. Even before start up, the car knows air temperature, pressure and flow, as well as engine temperature, speed and location of the engine within the cycle. This allows the injectors to spray a fine fuel mist in ideal amounts, at the perfect time, to maximize the likelihood of combustion.

And, thankfully, most of things that make for an efficient engine, like low friction, precise measurement and good fuel control, also make for an easier cold start. Some credit has to be given to the fuel companies, too. All gaso-

line distributors in Canada provide a "winter fuel" to help the fuel vaporize when cold.

JP: Does Honda have a minimum standard temperature at which vehicles must be able to start?

HM: We sell cars in Russia, Northern Europe and all over Canada. The customer expectation is the same globally: "It has to start". This is our target.

JP: Can you share any specific exercises that vehicles are put through in cold weather testing?

HM: The testing after development has been completed is

focused on making sure the car works as expected in the hands of a Canadian customer. How quickly the car warms up, defrosts and starts is one example.

JP: Any big challenges in winter testing or performance foreseen in the future?

HM: As engine size decreases and vehicle interiors grow, ensuring a car with a small engine and a large interior can keep the passengers warm in extreme cold may require creative solutions. But currently we have no issues keeping our Honda Fit customers warm in extreme cold with traditional well designed and sized HVAC

and cooling system coupled to an efficient engine.

JP: Where is cold weather testing performed?

HM: Cold temperature testing starts on the tiniest clip, hinge, or circuit board in 'cold chambers' worldwide by suppliers before they are considered for use. Design and development groups then test vehicles in environmental chambers to make sure it all works as expected when assembled.

There's no replacement for real-world testing, and Honda engineers can be found on frozen ice roads worldwide, including northern Canada.

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20
Don't take sides or play favourites today. In fact, steer clear of contentious issues altogether if you can. No matter how hard you try to be fair, you will make more enemies than friends.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21
You are being too serious about something that is of no importance in the greater scheme of things. Focus on what makes you feel good, what makes you laugh, what makes you glad to be alive. Nothing else matters.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21
It may seem as if someone you live or work with is trying to undermine your efforts, but in reality you are reading too much into a situation that is quite straightforward. Don't listen to what they say — watch what they do.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23
No matter how annoying certain people get today, you must not allow yourself to be provoked. You may be raging on the inside but if you stay calm on the outside it will defuse what could have been a messy situation.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23
A sudden attraction is likely today but it may be more than just romantic. Most likely you will meet someone whose mind is a match for your own, and whose sense of humour has you laughing fit to bust.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You need to do some serious thinking about a relationship that has brought you a lot of pleasure but also a considerable amount of pain. Is it worth carrying on with? Only you can decide. Make your choice.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You need to slow down and catch your breath today because what happens over the following three or four days will be both exciting and exhausting. Give your body, your mind and your emotions a rest — they've earned it.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you uncover some juicy information about a friend, you should keep it to yourself. It will save them from embarrassment — and give you a bargaining chip you may one day be able to use.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Some people are feeling rather resentful towards you. Why? Because everything you touch turns to gold. It's not your fault you are smack bang in the middle of such a fortunate phase, so don't feel guilty about it.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The planets warn that although it's right to feel pleased with what you have achieved, it would be wrong to believe it's all plain sailing from now on. A new challenge is heading your way. Be ready for it.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Stop thinking about what has gone wrong and focus on the many things that are still going right for you. There is no reason at all why you should be in a downbeat mood. Life is good and getting better.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20
A friend in need may be the last thing you want to deal with right now but you are not the sort to turn them away. Do what you can to soothe their fears and ease their pain. You'll benefit too, in unexpected ways. **SALLY BROMPTON**

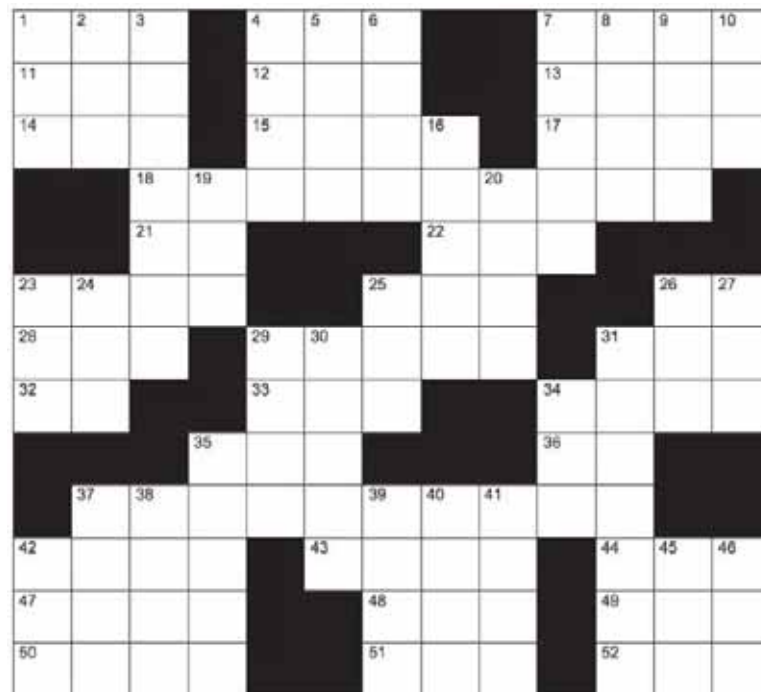
Crossword

Across

1. Apple product
4. Golfer's goal
7. Reunion attendee
11. Stop — - dime (2 words)
12. Before, or yore
13. Singer/actress Falana
14. Ruin
15. Make over
17. Fashion magazine
18. Star of Touched by an Angel (2 words)
21. — the Heat of the Night
22. Buddhist sect
23. Fuss
25. Gamble
26. "How to Marry a Millionaire" actress (init.)
28. "Con —"
29. Wedge
31. Bikini half
32. Courtroom figure (abbr.)
33. Snake-like fish
34. My Name is —
35. Syrup source
36. Minneapolis state.
37. Wee Irish fairy
42. Actress Ramirez of Grey's Anatomy
43. "— on Me"
44. La Rue of CSI: Miami
47. Related
48. Do away with
49. — Tin Tin
50. Jeans go-with
51. Pauses
52. Unhappy

Down

1. We celebrate her in May
2. Actress Ortiz of Ugly Betty
3. Transporter
4. Hairdo

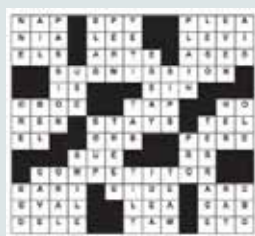


5. Space
6. Comedian Foxx
7. Actress Close
8. Function
9. — McBeal
10. Daniel — Kim of Hawaii Five-O
16. Seeps
19. Toronto's prov.
20. Dampens
23. Passing fancy

24. Inlet
25. Sound measure
26. Sub zero comment
27. Guy's date
29. Juicy fruit
30. Ward off
31. Pennants
34. Aussie bird
35. Reaches
37. Pond

38. Canal of song
39. Bird-bill part
40. Broadway musical
41. No ifs, — or buts
42. Was in session
45. By way of
46. The Bold — the Beautiful

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers
metronews.ca/
answers.



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	1	4	6	5	9	2	7	3
5	7	2	6	4	3	9	6	1
9	3	6	1	2	7	8	5	4
4	6	8	9	7	1	5	3	2
3	2	1	5	6	6	4	9	7
7	5	9	4	3	2	1	8	6
1	8	5	3	6	4	7	2	9
6	9	7	2	1	5	3	4	8
2	4	3	7	9	6	1	5	

5						3		9
		1	3		2			
2					7			
		2					6	
	5	6	4	8	9	7	1	
	7					4		
			2					1
			7		8	6		
1		4						3

Weather

TODAY



MAX: -16°
MIN: -16°

THURSDAY

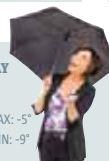


MAX: -9°
MIN: -18°

FRIDAY



MAX: -5°
MIN: -9°



MICHELE MCDOUGALL
WEATHER SPECIALIST

"My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it's always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes". **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**



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2011 TOYOTA
RAV 4 4X4

#3JN5257A

\$23,860



2010 JEEP PATRIOT
4X4 NORTH

#P3264

\$20,860



2010 DODGE RAM 3500
4X4 DUALY

#2R35110A

\$42,860



2007 JEEP
COMMANDER 4X4

#EN3255A

\$20,860



2004 DODGE RAM
SPORT REG 4X4

#3R19100A

\$11,860



2009 DODGE RAM
1500 CREW 4X4

#2R17117A

\$23,860



Matt Lakusta



Mike Redmond



2010 FORD F-150
XLT CREW

#2G2707A

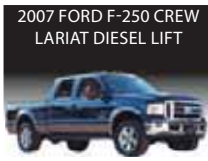
\$26,860



2011 DODGE RAM 1500
CREW CAB 4X4 SPORT

(BLACK) #3R16427A

\$34,640



2007 FORD F-250 CREW
LARIAT DIESEL LIFT

#2R2260A

\$23,860



2008 DODGE RAM 1500
QUAD SLT 4X4

#3R11818A

\$17,860



2006 GMC YUKON
DENALI

#3DR8144A

\$22,860



2005 JEEP TJ
SPORT 4X4

#32R25147B

\$10,860



Mauricio Roa



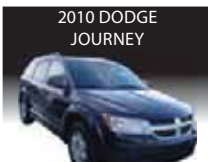
Kevin Knoske



2012 JEEP GRAND
CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4

#EN3270

\$32,860



2010 DODGE
JOURNEY

#2T45908A

\$14,860



2002 DODGE RAM 1500
QUAD 4X4

#3R10784B

\$7,860



2006 CHEV AVALANCHE
4X4

#2R10046A

\$14,860



2010 DODGE RAM 2500
CUMMINS 4X4 SLT

#2R20522A

\$31,860



2008 DODGE GR. CARAVAN
SXT SPORT

#3T45151A

\$14,860



Sam Nahal



Mark Maguire



2009 SUZUKI SX4
JLX AWD

#2GH8549A

\$13,860



2009 JEEP WRANGLER
SAHARA UNLTD. LOADED

#P3251

\$25,860



2009 JEEP GRAND
CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4

#2R10353A

\$19,860



2009 VOLKSWAGON
ROUTAN COMFORTLINE

#2R35206A

\$18,860



2010 ACURA ZDX
SH AWD

#3TJ7113A

\$39,860



2012 BMW 528XI

#2R35176A

\$58,860



Dale Buchner



Dave Welsh

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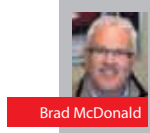
Jesse Halladay

2011 FORD F-150 FX-4 CREW
4X4 #2R34253A

2008 FORD F-150 LTD CREW
4X4 #2R34720B

2007 CHEV SILVERADO 1500
LTZ Z71 #3R18863A

2010 DODGE RAM 1500 CREW
SPORT 4X4



Brad McDonald

2008 VOLKSWAGON RABBIT
#2R18762A

2009 VW JETTA TDi #2P45915B

2010 CHRYSLER TOWN &
COUNTRY TOURING #3TC2241A

2006 FORD F-350 DUALY 4X4
#2R17765C

2010 GMC TERRAIN SLE
#3DR8239A

2011 JEEP WRANGLER
UNLIMITED SPORT #2R18393A

2007 MERCEDES S600 AMG
#P3269

2007 MERCEDES C-280
#2GH1930E

2010 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4X4 V6
#3R10784A



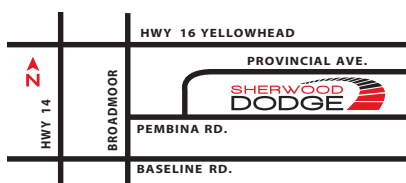
Mark Yaghi



Aaren Schroeder



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